

# Farming and Finance

Babson Park, Mass. Mar. 4.—Many of reformers and self-styled statesmen who are supposed to be working for the farmers interest seem to think that all problems will be solved as soon as the farmer has plenty of credit. There is little doubt that farmers in certain sections have had to pay rather high interest rates for necessary loans. It is also true that the farmer must often borrow money to carry on his operations just as any business man must, but a very large proportion of the farmers' trouble during the past three years has been due to too much credit. It has been altogether too easy to buy all sorts of things on long credit. The prospect of good crops has led farmers to take advantage of the easy credit and when the crops have failed it has left the farmer heavily in debt. Obligations for non-essentials have often been so great that the farmer was unable to get the credit he needed on the tools and supplies he has absolutely had to have. Paying for dead horses is not the pleasantest of occupations.

The farmers' difficulties cannot be solved by more credit, at favorable rates any more than anyone else can make a business successful merely by going further and further into debt. The farmer will be aided by loans at reasonable rates on essential needs. He will probably be better off if he has less credit in other directions. It is too easy to run up bills that a good crop would cover. If the drop materializes and is sold at good prices the bills are paid and everyone is happy. But if the crop does not come up to expectations or if prices are not quite as good as they promise to be, the bills cannot be paid and the situation is decidedly unpleasant for everyone concerned.

In many sections this year's crop marketed at good prices has gone to pay for the things that were bought and worn out two years ago. The dead horses are finally paid for and the farmer has an opportunity to get onto a sound business basis so far as his financing is concerned. Borrowing and going into debt for absolutely necessary operating expenses is legitimate and necessary but the purchase of luxuries and non-essentials on credit should be avoided as the plague. Better wait until the crop is marketed and the cash is in hand, then you know where you are and can buy with your eyes open. Luxuries that are fully paid for can really be enjoyed. Not more credit, but the more intelligent use of credit is needed in many farm-

ing sections.

**Cotton is Being Consumed at record speed.** In January 589,725 bales were used in place of the 578,468 consumed the first month of last year. This monthly figure reflects the change that has taken place for consumption during the last six months is not up to that of the same period a year ago. Added to this increased domestic consumption we have exports of 1,076,090 in January of this year as compared with 546,853 last January. Exports have almost doubled. Exports for six months ending January 31 total 5,420,185 bales as compared with 3,868,043 for the same period last year. This tremendous increase in the consumption of cotton is rapidly using up the stocks on hand and argues for better cotton prices next year.

**World Production of Pork and pork products in 1924** came near making a record, and would have had the United States exports been up to last year. European countries maintained, and some of them increased, production while the United States showed a downward swing in production with a rise in prices and curtailment of exports. Denmark slaughtered for export 4,000,000 hogs compared with 3,400,000 in 1923; the Netherlands exported 50 per cent more pork to the United Kingdom than in 1923; Canada exported 35 per cent to 40 per cent more; while Ireland and Sweden also made increases. The inspected slaughter of hogs in Germany was 9,700,000 as against 5,780,000 the previous year. Compared with these facts we get from the department of commerce figures that the exports from the United States of ham and bacon for 1924 were 628,000,000 pounds compared with 829,000,000 in 1923. Exports of lard were 944,000,000 pounds as against 1,035,000,000 in 1923. Importing countries did not consume less pork and lard but they bought more from other surplus producing countries. With the probable smaller amount of hogs produced this year, together with the high prices which are expected to prevail we may look for even smaller exports than those of last year.

**Wholesale Prices for January 1925** show interesting comparisons with those of a year ago. The department of labor now reports farm products at 163.4 as compared with 144.4 in January 1924. Foods stand at 159.8 as compared with 143.2. Cloths and clothing stand at 191.1 as compared with 200.1 a year ago. Fuel and light is now figured at 167.9 as compared with 168.9 Metals stand at 135.3 as compared with 141.9 last January. Building materials figure at 179.3 as against 181.0. Chemicals and drugs stand at 135.2 instead of 131.8 and house furnishings at 172.6 against 175.8 last year. Miscellaneous classifications average to 127.1 as compared with 116.6. All commodities stand at 160. for January 1925 as against 151.2 last

**FEBRUARY SMASHED WEATHER RECORDS**

February, up and over did itself in the matter of breaking another record unequalled in recent years, declares S. S. Schworm, meteorologist in charge of the Charlotte United States Weather bureau.

The wind movement, which totaled 3,366 miles, was the smallest on record. The month was the third warmest February since the establishment of the Charlotte station in 1878.

The maximum air pressure was the lowest monthly since 1912. The month was the driest February since 1906, and the fourth driest in the history of the station.

February was the warmest since 1890, and only one other February, that of 1884, exceeded it in warmth, making it the third warmest February in 47 years. The average was ten degrees greater than that of February 1924.

The highest temperature was 73 degrees on the 8th and the lowest, 27 degrees on the 13th. There were but four days on which the temperature was freezing or lower, the smallest

American Grapefruit is making its way in foreign markets. The British demand for it continues strong, states Edward A. Foley, American agricultural commissioner at London. The strengthening of the market is resulting in the appearance of better grades of fruit than formerly. There is a slow but constant increase in its consumption in France, according to David S. Green, assistant trade commissioner at Paris. Monthly imports have increased to about 800 cases, 60 per cent of which is consumed by American residents at the capital. The best quality fruit sells at 21 cents each.

**Farm Machines get hard treatment.** One of the saddest sights from an economist point of view is that of plows, harrows, planters, harvesting machines, wagons, etc., standing out in all kinds of weather, summer and winter. In some places farm machinery is kept under rough sheds, open on all sides, which afford but little protection from the weather. The efficiency of many an American factory depends upon its machinery and the perfectly cleaned and oiled condition of that machinery. Experts are constantly watching and caring for it. Machines to be efficient must be taken care of, whether they be in the factory or on the farm. With growing practice of machine farming, the farmer must realize, that he should give to his machines the same care and weather protection that he gives to his horses or mules.

**ACHES AND PAINS ALL OVER BODY**

**Mrs. Proctor Reports Great Benefit by Taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound**

Sharpsburg, Pa.—"I recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to all suffering women. I have taken four bottles of it and I feel 100 per cent better. I was dizzy and weak with no appetite, no ambition and with a tired feeling all the time. I had aches and pains all over my body and had the headache a good deal. I saw your advertisement in the 'Pittsburgh Press' and thought it might help me. I have been greatly benefited by its use and highly recommend it for all ailments of women."—Mrs. J. H. PROCTOR, Box 1, East Liberty Station, Pittsburg, Pa.

Such letters prove the great merit of the Vegetable Compound. These women know by experience the benefit they have received. Their letters show a sincere desire to help other women suffering from like ailments. Let these experiences help you—now.

In a recent canvass of women purchasers, 98 out of every 100 report beneficial results by taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Sold by druggists everywhere.

**M'LEAN HAS BIG STATE INFLUENCE**

Raleigh, March 3.—Governor McLean's powerful influence with the 1925 general assembly was again emphasized in the senate this morning, when the bill to increase the membership of the state highway commission was returned to the senate committee on roads, upon motion of Senator Oscar Clark, of Bladen, one of the introducers of the bill.

The agreement which brought the motion from the Bladen member was reached at a conference prior to the morning's senate session between Governor McLean and 24 senators who were avowed supporters of the proposal to give each highway district three commissioners. Mr. McLean told the senators that enactment of the bill would embarrass him, and he requested that they abandon their fight.

Had the bill reached a vote in the senate it undoubtedly would have been passed. The sponsors were claiming easy sailing in the house. Once back in committee, however, the measure would be allowed to rest with the consent of its introducers.

Friends of the highway commission feel that Governor McLean's action probably saved the present organization from being "scrapped." Enactment of the measure certainly would have brought resignation of Chairman Frank Page and several of the district commissioners.

It would have localized highway construction beyond a doubt, although the supporters claimed that it would "democratize the commission" and thereby add greater popular support to road building.

The support of many prominent in public life was claimed for the measure. One senator made the assertion that O. Max Gardner, Democratic State Chairman John G. Dawson and United States Senator Simmons had given their approval to the bill.

**SUMTER, S. C. BRIDE COMMITTED SUICIDE TODAY**

Greenville, S. C., March 3.—Mrs. Ruth Jackson, a bride of six months, died at her home here this morning after taking poison. She left a note saying that she planned the suicide. Her husband, R. H. Jackson, said that she was apparently normal when he left her for his work at seven a. m. He states he knows no reason for her act. The body will be taken to Conway, S. C., her former home, for burial.

People who put their morals in their living get better results than those who moralize.



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