

# SEES APPROACH OF PROSPERITY

A bulletin entitled "The Agricultural Situation," just issued by the National Bank of Commerce in New York sets forth conditions in agriculture which would indicate that although the farmer, as is the case with business men in general, is not in all cases entirely back to normal, but that prosperity is on the way. The bulletin says:

"Good crops at fair prices make the United States prosperous. Nearly one-half the people of the country are directly dependent upon agriculture and a much larger proportion are indirectly dependent upon it for livelihood. The country of this country is producing food and other agricultural raw materials has made possible rapid industrial development and is the basis of its foreign trade.

"It is now understood and although adverse weather might result in a marked downward revision of crop estimates, it can be safely assumed that the crop year 1929 will be reasonably satisfactory. Even if harvest results should fall below the yield which has been forecast there is no doubt that the United States has a good wheat crop. The corn crop is by no means made. The July estimate is for a crop somewhat less than last year but slightly in excess of the average crop during the five years 1915-20. There is a large carry-over, however, and a yield equivalent to the five-year average would mean satisfactory conditions in the corn belt. With the exception of oats the outlook for other crops is good and large crops of potatoes and tobacco are expected. A cotton crop considerably larger than last year is now indicated but uncertainty as to deterioration which may be caused by the boll-weevil makes the final yield uncertain.

"The American farmer is assured of a market. The domestic market is the greatest consuming market of the world, the population of this country being equal to the combined population of the United Kingdom and the German Republic. The methods of handling, shipping, financing and marketing the crops of the United States for export trade are unexcelled, and the only important competitor of this country from the standpoint of freight land is Europe in the Dominion of Canada. The exportable surplus of the American crops of 1929 will be promptly absorbed by the international market.

"The last two years have been discouraging to farmers but they are increasingly becoming aware of their advantageous competitive position and are recovering their old confidence. Prices of leading farm products are now much above their recent low level. There is no reason to expect a return of the price levels of the boom years but there is likewise no reason which might justify a fear that the unprofitable prices of the adjustment period of 1920-21 will return. Farmers are expanding their purchases of agricultural implements, fertilizers and other farm necessities, and the time is not far ahead when they will be in a position to increase their purchases of other classes of goods. Business in the agricultural districts show confidence and that confidence is a justification basis for faith in the entire business situation of the country."

## Steel Business Good During Last Quarter

(By Associated Press)  
NEW YORK, July 28.—Directors of the United States steel corporation declared the regular quarterly dividend on common and preferred stock.  
The quarterly report of the steel corporation for the period ending June 30 showed total earnings of \$27,286,942, net income of \$11,219,512, and a balance from undivided surplus of \$1,142,643.  
These figures compare with total earnings of \$19,220,285, net income of \$10,975,856, and balance from undivided surplus of \$674,536 in the previous quarter.

BURGARS PLAY ELLIARDS.  
CHICAGO—Burgars who robbed the home of Thomas C. Vane played several games of billiards before leaving for

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## Evils of Betting



Blind bet Sidney Wetburg, London, a halfpenny he couldn't get inside a milk can. He won, but he couldn't get out until hospital surgeons had "amputated" the bet.

## DEVELOPMENT IS INCREASING

WASHINGTON, July 28.—There is more rapid power development and use at the present time than at any previous period in the nation's history, the Federal power commission is told today in reports the results of its 100 years of administration under the water power act.

Applications for development total 321 and involve approximately 29,000,000 horsepower, or more than twice the existing water power installation of the country.

In the last year, after the first flood of applications had come in, the commission authorized a total of 60 preliminary or survey permits involving an estimated installation of 2,300,000 horsepower and the 31 licenses for power projects 1,022,500 horsepower. Although it has been able to take final action on more than half of the applications for permits and licenses filed, the commission, the report said, has been forced to delay action on many important projects due to what was said to have proved to be a wholly inadequate personnel to handle the great amount of administrative detail and supervision required in the legislation.

VETERAN BLINDED BY SUN  
(By Associated Press)  
SALT LAKE, July 28.—Blinded by sunlight, Howard H. Johns, World war veteran of Chicago, was found exhausted on the desert, 30 miles west of here, Friday, and taken to the county hospital at Tooele City, according to word received here. Johns was attempting to hike to Prescott, Ariz., for entrance to a government hospital there. He is said to be 85 per cent disabled, but has signified an intention to make another effort to cross the desert on foot, some officials of the veterans' bureau have denied his application for transfer and cannot make transportation to Johns.

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## TWIN SUNS ARE NEW DISCOVERY

VICTORIA, B. C., July 27.—"Twin" suns, 32 quadrillion miles from the earth, have been discovered by Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director of the Dominion of Canada astrophysical observatory here, through the observatory's big 52-inch reflector telescope. It was announced today.

Astronomers here said the discovery was one of the outstanding astronomical achievements of recent years. The suns have been named Plaskett, for their discoverer.

Dr. Plaskett has estimated that the suns burn at a temperature of 39,000 degrees Fahrenheit, as they whirl around the mother sun, the more massive, is believed to be 75 times the bulk of our sun. The lesser is 81 times heavier. One is 15,000 times as bright as the sun, the other 12,000 times as bright. The larger one, Dr. Plaskett estimates, is more than five times as large as any other known heavenly body.

Reducing the figures to modern airplane traveling 200 miles an hour would require 30,000 million years to travel from the earth to the newly discovered suns. Light, traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, requires more than 3600 years for passage.

## Former Wealthy Man Suicide in Seattle

SEATTLE, Wash., July 28.—Joseph A. Sloan, 45, marine architect during the World war for the Sloan Shipbuilding company, was found dead here Monday night in a Japanese rooming house. Clutched in his right hand was a revolver with one chamber empty, and in his head was a bullet.

Sloan, whose brother, Philip Sloan, president of the company, is in Washington, D. C., prosecuting claims for \$3,000,000 against the government, had been separate from his position with the company since 1928. He recently had complained of ill health. Mr. Sloan was formerly in Alaska and in 1918 was a Democratic candidate for congress from this district.

During the past week 850 automobiles filled with tourists passed through Bendleton.

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## NEW METHOD TO CONTROL WEEDS

PULLMAN, Wash., July 28.—Eradicating and smothering weeds is the best method for controlling weed growth, which is becoming a menace in many Washington wheat farms, the opinion of Professor M. D. Thomas of the Utah experiment station, Logan, Utah, who attended the conference of agronomists here last week. Seven standard methods of eradicating weeds, potentials, of which morning glory is the most serious have been established by the Utah experiment station. Following several experiments carried on by the station experts, according to Professor Thomas. These methods include cut-

ting down the tops, smothering, covering with tar paper, pasturing, slipping, smothering with chemicals and rotating with another crop.

## WANT LOWER TAXES.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 28.—Disappointed plans for a statewide drive to reduce state and local taxes and governmental expenditures was the principal business before delegates to the convention of the State Federation of Taxpayers' associations which met here today. Representatives of tax working bodies in twenty-two counties were here for the session.

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There is a McQuay-Norris Ring—made from Electric Iron—for every purpose and priced specially designed and manufactured for replacement purposes—each type designed for the particular motor it fits. All standard sizes and over-sizes.—An extract from McQuay-Norris, Saturday Evening Post.

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## Black Figs Have a Big Kick in Them

(By Associated Press)  
SAN FRANCISCO, July 28.—Discovery by California home brewers that the black Mission fig makes a peculiarly tasty liquor with a sizeable "kick" is said to have been responsible for an increase in the price of figs on the west coast.

Corn sugar, the base for much of the big liquor, is more expensive. Tuesday's quotation for 100 pounds better 34 cents over that of Monday. Black figs that sold for 1 cent a pound last year sold at 1 1/2 cents Tuesday. The standard variety sells at 1 1/2 cents, as against 3 cents last year. Buy and sell through Observer Classified Ads.

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