13 OFF DAYS IN NOVEMBER

Small Number of Business Days Commented on in John Perrin's Monthly Review.

In November, 1924, there were five Sundays, five Saturdays, and three holidays. The unusually small number of business days adds difficulty to statistical analysis of commerce and industry. Available data, however, indicates that improvement in business conditions which has been in progress since mid-summer, continued during the month.

The improvement has recently been chiefly reflected in commodity markets, and prices with few exceptions have moved upward. The general price level, according to the United States Bureau of Labor's index number of wholesale prices, advanced from 151.9 in October to 152.7 in November (1913 prices—100), the latter figure being 5.2 per cent above the low point of last June and 0.4 per cent above the figure for November a year ago. Of particular importance in this district was the further rise in prices of general farm products, the larger part of the district's crops now having been sold on a steadily advancing market, at prices that has been the case during the past four years. The upward movement of prices during November was not confined to agricultural commodities and foods, however, non-agricultural commodities participating in the movement more generally than at any time since its beginning five months ago.

Activity Maintained.

Productive activity was well maintained during November. The mines of the district were operated on full producing schedules, and an increasing amount of new development work was undertaken. Expansion in the demand for lumber at a time when weather conditions were forcing some curtailment of output has resulted in material increases in the volume of unfilled orders held by lumber mills. Less than seasonal activity in the flour milling industry was reported during the month, the small supply and high price of wheat having discouraged production of flour in excess of immediate demands. Flow of petroleum in California has continued to decline, but at a slower rate than the decline in shipments, so that stored stocks reached another record figure, 96,774,598 barrels, on December 1st. Activity in building construction declined by less than the usual seasonal amount from October to November, and the number and value of building permits taken out in anticipation of future construction work has been large. The value of building permits issued in Los Angeles and San Francisco were $9,700,000 and $6,200,000, respectively, in November, 1924, compared with $12,500,000 and $3,800,000 in November, 1923. If figures for Los Angeles be excluded, the value of permits issued in principal cities of the district was 11.7 per cent greater in November, 1924, than in November, 1923, although not all of the cities included reported increases. The volume of employment in principal industries of the district declined seasonally during November and continued less than one year ago when unemployment figures were unusually small.

Business Perks Up.

Signs of increasing business activity, present in commodity markets and in industry, were lacking in the field of distribution during November. The value of trade at wholesale compared unfavorably with the figures for November, 1923, eight of the eleven lines of trade which report the value of their sales to this bank showing a decline over the year period. Sales at retail, as reflected in sales of 35 different stores in seven cities of the district, were also smaller in value than one year ago, and the indicated rate of stock turnover was below that of the previous year. The lack of marked improvement in distributive activity is not surprising, however, when it is remembered that the mid-summer depression was not so acute in this as in other branches of business and that improving business conditions are normally reflected last in the market for consumers' goods.

Credit requirements for financing current business operations have changed little during the past month, and reporting member banks have again found it advantageous to employ a large part of their loanable funds in the investment market. As a result of an increase of 12,000,000 in investments of 66 reporting member banks in principal cities of the district, their total loans and investments reached the highest figure on record, $1,470,000,000, on December 10th. At the same time their borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank declined to $3,000,000, the lowest point since a separate report of this item was first made in 1919. Total earning assets of the Federal Reserve Bank increased during this period, however, to the highest figures of the present year, additional purchases of acceptances in the open market more than offsetting declines in total discounts and in holdings of government securities. Total discounts remained at the lowest levels since 1917. Interest rates, in the presence of a supply of loanable funds in excess of current commercial demand for credit, have remained relatively low.

HUNTERS KILL PHEASANTS

EUGENE, Ore.—Many Chinese pheasants that have been sold by farmers, sportsmen and the state game commission while the snow was on the ground are being shot near Coburg and south of Corvallis, according to word received by Rodney Roach, deputy state game warden.

Farmers in different parts of the valley report that the pheasants are very tame during the cold weather and that they gather around the feeding places in large numbers. In some places the birds mingle with the chickens in the barnyard and feed with them it was stated.

Efforts will be made to bring the unscrupulous hunters to justice, said Deputy Roach.

If he advertises it, he knows it's good!

Meet the Green Family!

Introducing the family of William Green, new president of the American Federation of Labor. Seated, from left to right, are Miss Ruth Green Mrs. William Green and Mrs. Nellie Shepler. Standing, left to right are Harry Green, Mrs. Esther McManus, Miss Clara Green and Mrs. Flora McFadin.

WORRY CAUSE OF TRAGEDY

SIOUX CITY, Ia. (AP)—William Ausherman, formerly of Chattanooga, Tenn., a resident of this city for about six months, shot and seriously wounded James M. Connor, head of an employment agency here, and then shot himself at the Connor home Sunday morning. Ausherman died instantly.

Ausherman was believed to have become mentally unbalanced by worry over the whereabouts of his wife, who was said to have left Chattanooga on December 18, and from whom no word had been received since that time.

NORTH POWDER SHIPS STOCK

NORTH POWDER, (Special)—A mixed car of hogs and cattle was shipped to Portland Saturday from the North Powder yards by W. F. Hutchison. Mr. Hutchison accompanied the stock from to Portland.

John Gilkison, Jr., arrived in the city Wednesday evening from Hiland, where he has been employed. After spending the holidays at the home of his parents here he intends to go to Laramie, Wyo., to work for the P. F. E. company.

Charles Jones, son of Jos. L. Jones of Baker, spent Christmas with his grandparents and other relatives in this city.

An eight pound baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Will Lovern on Thursday, December 18. Mother and baby are both doing nicely.

Misses Eva Forsstrom and Doris Parker arrived Saturday to spend the holidays at their homes in this city. Both young ladies are students at the University of Oregon at Eugene.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Buchanan, Mrs. John Gilkison, Mrs. Bert Gilkison and Misses Bernice West and Ila Jones were Baker visitors recently.

An excellent program was given on Christmas eve by the Methodist Sunday school, after which the children were treated to candy, nuts and oranges. The church was beautifully decorated and a huge Christmas tree was the center of attraction.

James A. Pilcher, who has been ailing for some time is reported to now be bedfast at his home here.

AN ESSAY.
"The Supreme Gift."
(Willamette Collegian)

The Christmas season is approaching. Many are going home to have reunions with their loved ones, to have good times, and to receive gifts of value. All these things make us happy. They are desired by everybody. Yet there is one other gift which ranks higher on the list of desired objects. If it were possible for each one of us to receive a higher conception of truth, honest and integrity of character, a love for fellowmen and a tolerance for another's views—that would be the gift supreme.

HANDCUFFED MAN FLEES

PENDLETON, Or.—While handcuffed and riding as a prisoner in the car of W. F. Hoskins, state officer, Van Marple opened the door and risked his life by jumping to freedom while the machine was speeding toward Pendleton at between 30 and 35 miles an hour. Despite a careful search made by the officers, the man could not be found.

A companion, Art Nickerson, arrested with Marple at a country dance south of Pendleton, was fined $150 and costs in justice court on a charge of illegal possession of liquor. A search is under way for Marple.

OREGON PRUNES DOWN

SALEM, Ore.—The Oregon prune market suffered a slight decline when a quarter of a cent was lopped off the price by the north Pacific exchange. Straight 4ds were offered at 8¼ cents steamer.

The Dragon Fruit company, which operates extensively throughout western Oregon, has announced its withdrawal from the market to open later with a straight price of 5 cents for the 4os.

Fire Destroys Warehouse.

DALLAS, Ore.—The warehouse on the farm of W. M. Elliott, two miles south of Dallas, was destroyed by fire which started from an oil stove used to keep stored fruit from freezing. Eight hundred boxes of apples and more than 1000 empty prune boxes were consumed with the building. Mr. Elliott's loss will be about $2000, with $200 insurance.

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29TH ANNIVERSARY SALE
OF FURNITURE
Starts January 2nd
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See to it that he gets the body-building and strengthening elements that
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SLEDS
SKEEBOGGANS
SKIIS
SLEDS ..... $3.00 - $3.75 - $5.00
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The Only Independent Bakery in La Grande
PURITY BREAD - SUPERFINE BREAD

CLAUDE C. PRATT
This is what we have learned. There is a general lumber shortage in the West Coast mills. This is due to the long shut-down and this present cold spell don't help matters. Many orders are unfilled and the wholesale price is strengthening both on the Southern Pine and West Coast Douglas Fir. We are very fortunate in that we have a good supply on hand that we purchased before the lumber began to raise in price. Grab your supplies of building material while grabbing is good. Cedar Shingles, $2.10 and $2.65. Standard Hand Separator Oil, 1 gallon, 55c.
The Claude C. Pratt Lumber Co.
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AND PROSPERITY ARE THE
SEASON'S WISHES OF
Pattison Brothers Grocery
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FOLKS
WHATEVER the first advertisement, advertising is old as history. When folks know something worth talking about, they naturally talk about it; and folks were folks ten thousand years ago. Verbal pictures became pictures on cave, totem pole, tent—then on paper.
Advertisers today are folks, too. They want to give you easy knowledge about something worth knowing about. They let you take in, with one sweep of the eye, the meaning of an advertisement. Product, style, size, price. What they tell through advertisements has made all the difference between you in your comfortable home . . . and the cave-dweller in his stone.
Do you read their messages—always? They can lift you to greater progress.
THERE IS ONE WAY TO BUY WITH ASSURANCE—LET THE ADVERTISEMENTS BE YOUR GUIDE