

# WEST STATES SOUND, BABSON

**BABSON PAIR, Fla. (Special)**—Roger W. Babson today issued another section of his survey commenting on conditions in the eight Mountain States and their relation to the oil industry.

"Crude oil, gasoline and other petroleum products are subject first of all to the law of supply and demand," says the statistician. "If we had a constant supply, prices go up or down as the demand increases or decreases. But the supply meantime is increased by new wells coming in and improved methods of refining and distribution. Owing to the increasing number of automobiles and widening use for crude oil, the demand must also continue to increase for some years to come. Therefore, unless some such other or more efficient method of refining is developed, the price can be checked primarily only by new oil fields being developed. This is precisely what happens. The price goes up until it pays to develop a new field. When such a new field is opened up the price falls until the temporary surplus, which the new field produces, is needed and consumption again catches up with production.

"Oil exists nearly everywhere,

the only uncertain point being as to how far one must drill to get it out. In some sections—like Oklahoma which is producing an average of 500,000 barrels per day—the oil is comparatively near the surface; in other sections—like New England—the oil is so deep that it may never pay to drill it, while in the Mountain States oil is deep but drilling is now paying. For instance, these eight Mountain States are now producing about 100,000 barrels per day with oil prices very low. As oil prices advance, it will become more profitable to develop new fields in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and other states, and then a new big area will be producing. This will again force prices down until consumption catches up again with production.

"This means that it is incorrect to say that Oklahoma has more oil than New Mexico. Both may have identical amounts, the difference lies in the fact that the oil is nearer the surface in Oklahoma and it is unnecessary to drill so deeply as in the case of New Mexico. I will remember when only wells 1000 feet deep existed. Then the price of oil gradually increased, until it paid to drill 2000 feet. Drilling 2000 feet brought in an entirely new group of oil fields and production for a while exceeded consumption accompanied by falling oil prices. As the demand increased, the price again rose until it paid to drill 3000 feet. Drilling 3000 feet brought in other new fields and again, owing to the increased production, the price fell. But the demand continued to increase and again consumption caught up with production. Then oil prices again began to climb until it paid to bore still deeper which brought in a new field with another period of declining prices. Such a period we have just been through. But once again consumption has caught up and prices are going upward. Moreover this upward movement will continue until it pays to drill still deeper—say 5000 to 6000 feet. Such a time will soon come and then the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico will reap a harvest."

Commenting on general business conditions in the eight states, Mr. Babson gave the following details:

**Montana.**—Trend fairly favorable. The metal, mining and general industrial conditions report some improvement; the wheat crop showed an increase in value of 94 per cent; and stock raisers are feeling a little better. The copper districts are decidedly improved owing to the higher price of the metal; while the lumbering camps, sugar mills and oil fields are all busy. Surely Montana should have much better business this spring than has been the case for several years.

**Wyoming.**—Recovery rather uneven. While employment conditions are normal in Wyoming, the state has had so many unjust difficulties in the past, its recovery must of necessity be rather slow. With a continued improvement in the livestock situation, coal mining and oil, Wyoming should come back in good shape. The best sugar industry continues to grow; the railroad shops are busy; and a distinctly better feeling exists everywhere throughout the state.

**Colorado.**—Trend fairly firm. The value of Colorado's recent wheat crop was 64 per cent over the previous year. Although potatoes showed a decline, this was offset by an increased income from barley and other products. I am getting favorable reports on metal mining, meat packing and the sugar and flour industries from Colorado. Mining

is especially active at Cripple Creek and Leadville and in the Tetonia, Idaho Springs and Boulder districts. Numerous prospective oil wells are being drilled in the Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont, Craig Pueblo and Florence districts. The completion of the Moffat Tunnel, the building of new highways and the development of additional water power is making for a good 1925 business throughout Colorado.

**Utah.**—Recovery temporarily halted. Although the industrial tendencies are fairly favorable, some unemployment still exists in Utah. This is often the case when the sugar mills shut down and the canning factories have closed for the season. Mining, however, principally copper, remains steady; while road building and agricultural work is opening up for 1925. Personally I am optimistic as to the possibilities of getting new oil fields in Utah. The state should also benefit from pending super-power developments and other engineering feats in contemplating. The population—only about 500,000—is rather small for such a big state and certainly problems facing the state tend to retard its growth.

**Nevada and Idaho.**—Unfavorable tendency persists. The statistics on Nevada are not as good as I wish they were, but considering the 1924 population of only 77,467, the state does exceedingly well. In the McGill copper mining district the mine labor situation is well balanced, and indications are that metal mine conditions will continue to improve. While building has slackened for the winter months, resident building continues fairly active. Employment in connection with municipal improvements shows a seasonal decrease. Highway construction has continued to afford considerable work in many parts of the state. (Excepting a few of the ore reduction plants, which are closed temporarily, all other industrial plants continue running steadily. Railway shops are working on a five-day-a-week schedule, with employment in connection slightly reduced. I believe that Nevada will have a better year in 1925 than in 1924. This is also true of Idaho where similar conditions exist, although it must be remembered that the recent wheat crop of Idaho shows a decrease in value of 3 per cent while potatoes and barley also show some decline. Better conditions, however, both agricultural and mining, may exist this new year.

**Arizona and New Mexico.**—Conditions remain fairly favorable although statistics indicate no rapid immediate improvement. Favorable reports are coming in on metal mining, lumbering and numerous other local industries. Arizona received for its recent cotton crop about the same amount as in the year previous. More truck crops are continually being raised by irrigators and over 5000 acres are now growing lettuce. These states lead in new railway construction while additional highways are opening up new sections.

Metal mining, lumbering and other industries are progressing slowly but steadily. Sheep and cattle raising is still rather inactive but oil prospecting is taking the attention of ranch men in many sections. The test well which the Prisco interests—through the New Mexico and Arizona Land company—are drilling in creating much attention. If successful—and it is only a question of going deep enough—this may give these two states a great boom.

"These Mountain States, which are somewhat quiet at present have grown at a remarkably rapid rate, though still of less size than the other districts. The important thing to keep in mind is that some of the territories which seem rather dull now have great basic strength and should offer excellent opportunities at a future date.

"The Babson chart reflecting general activity shows current business for the country at 6 per cent above normal."

**Telephoning Made Pleasant**  
STOCKHOLM (AP)—The "line's busy" nuisance in telephoning has been mitigated by this city through the installation of an ingenious arrangement called the "waiting line." It will apply the first come first served rule to places much in demand such as hospitals, drug stores, doctor's offices, ticket agencies, information bureaus and newspapers. This is done by the extension of a special central and whenever a number is reported "busy" by the operator or the automatic switching machine, the "waiting line" is called and the desired number duly recorded in the sequence of its receipt. Then as soon as the line is clear, the connection is made.

Sleeping with a person who "sleeps like a log" would be all right, if he didn't insist on trying to snore it.

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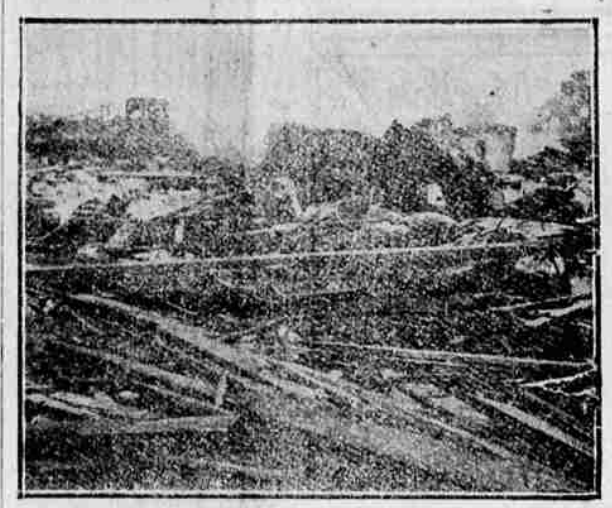
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## Latest Storm Pictures



A little mantel clock (shown by arrow) in the home of George Doll, at Griffin, Ind., points its hands to the exact time the tornado struck—seven minutes to four. Mrs. Doll escaped with a broken arm.



All that's left of the Kokomo restaurant at Griffin, Ind., where six perished.

## Tribute to Poe's Mother Is Planned

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)**—The unmarked grave of Elizabeth Allan Poe, mother of Edgar Allan Poe, will soon lift an imposing memorial shaft among the moldering headstones in St. John's churchyard here. The delay tribute is the plan of the Raven Society of the University of Virginia working together with the New York Actors' association. New York has aided in the raising of funds. The design, it is announced, has already been furnished and final plans for the rearing of the monument will be discussed at an early date at Harvard university.

J. H. Whitty, an authority on Poe, discovered the grave of Poe's mother four years ago. It lies near the wall of the ancient church where Patrick Henry delivered his "Liberty or Death" oration. A member of a theatrical company, Elizabeth Allan Poe, died here in 1811. Her little son, Edgar, adopted by the Allan family, was reared to maturity in Virginia.

The poet's own tribute to his mother will be the inscription used on the shaft. It reads: "No early was ever prouder of his freedom than he of his descent from a woman who, though well born,

hesitated not to consecrate to the drama her brief career of genius and beauty."

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## UNEMPLOYED ON DECREASE

**PORTLAND, Ore. (Special)**—Although the fir lumber industry continues to be greatly curtailed, there are fewer unemployed men in west coast centers than there have been at any time since Christmas, according to telegraphic reports from 41 employment service offices in various northwestern cities received at 41 headquarters here today. Building and construction activities, coupled with the spring demand for farm help, have been chief factors in bringing about the improved condition, the reports show. Labor turnover is increasing.

Spring cutting at pine mills east of the Cascades is under way despite lack of orders, the reports say, and many plants there are operating two shifts. Condensed reports from the 41 offices are as follows: **Starbuck, Ore.**—Fir mills on coast are operating five days a week. Labor turnover has increased this month. Small logging contractors are starting work. Local building is active. All kinds of labor quite generally employed.

**Kugene, Ore.**—Contractors are shipping in equipment for early resumption of grading on Natron cut-off. Most sawmills in this district are operating but five days a week. Labor turnover is increasing.

**PORTLAND, Ore.**—Slightly larger labor turnover in camps and mills was noted last week. Local building and construction picking up daily. Many men leaving

town for work in dairies and on farms.

**Raymond, Wn.**—Sawmills on Willapa harbor are operating five days a week. There is no large surplus of labor here.

**Aberdeen, Wn.**—Fifty per cent of Grays Harbor sawmills on five-day week. A night shift has been added at Wilson Bros. mill. Logging is close to normal capacity and there are very few unemployed loggers here. Labor turnover in camps increased last week.

**Tacoma.**—Lumber production at local mills continues to be curtailed. City building is active. There is still a surplus of labor in Tacoma but it is not so great as it was two weeks ago.

**Seattle.**—Five local sawmills are working four days a week, three plants are operating five days, and four others continue to work six days. Yarding crews have been laid off at two logging camps. Calls for farm help and miners are being received daily. The local employment situation is easier than it has been at any time this year.

**Bellingham.**—All but two logging camps in this district are operating and there are few unemployed loggers. The Hoesel Donovan plant is operating on the shore week. The E. K. Wood mill closed Saturday and will remain down for six weeks while electrical equipment is installed.

**Nanaimo, B. C.**—Practically all sawmills in this province operating at hours per week. Logging is at

about 25 per cent of capacity and further curtailment is being considered. Nearly every shingle mill in British Columbia has been closed for an indefinite period.

**Bend, Ore.**—Local sawmills running two shifts. Lumber shipments have been retarded by lack of work in shipping condition. Local building as very active.

**Idaho, Ore.**—Local sawmills operating at normal eight-hour capacity. One plant will close two weeks for repairs. There are many unemployed men in this district.

**Spokane.**—Nearly every sawmill in the Inland Empire is operating and logging is becoming more active. There is a good demand for ranch help. The number of unemployed has been greatly reduced.

**Temple Mysteries of Japan To Be Revealed in Movies**

**TOKIO (AP)**—The mysterious interiors of the temples of the two most powerful Buddhist sects in Japan are to be opened to the moving camera. The Higashi Honganji and the Nishi Honganji sects in Kyoto have decided to make use of the movies in their missionary work, and allow the temples and sacred precincts to be used as locations for filming the lives of the priests and the religious ceremonies. The scenario of a religious drama by the old priest of Higashi Honganji already is being cast.

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