

ALL BUSINESS ON COAST IMPROVES IN PAST MONTH

San Francisco, Aug. 26.—Improvement in business and trade in the twelfth federal reserve district, first noted during June, continued during July, and general business activity during the latter month was near the highest levels of the year. The prospect of satisfactory yields of the principal crops, and favorable market conditions for crops and livestock were important factors in the maintenance of trade volume during the month. Industrial activity increased seasonally during July and, as in the previous month, was above the level of a year ago. Gains in industrial employment were reported in all states of the district during July, 1925, as compared with July, 1924. The volume of credit extended by reporting member banks during July, 1925, was the largest ever recorded, but borrowings from the federal reserve bank continued relatively small in amount.

Lumber production at reporting mills of four associations in the district was 6.4 per cent smaller in volume during July than during June, the decrease being the result, chiefly of the customary curtailment of lumbering operations during the first two weeks of July. Out put of reporting mills was smaller than either sales or shipments, which also decreased slightly during July, and unfilled orders were larger, and stocks at producing centers smaller, at the close of the month than at its beginning.

During July, the flour milling industry of the district continued to operate at the low levels of the first half of the year, but an increased demand for milling products was reported and millers' stocks of flour were reduced. Production of 16 reporting milling companies, at 275,634 barrels, was 0.2 per cent and 40.4 per cent smaller than in June, 1925, and July, 1924, respectively, and 26.7 per cent smaller than the five-year average output for July.

Seasonal activity in commercial fruit canning and packing continued during July and the first part of August. Available information concerning canners' operations tends to confirm earlier estimates that the 1925 canned fruit pack will be larger in California, and smaller in Oregon and Washington than on any year ago. Prices of important canning fruits were advanced during July, as future sales of the year's pack in both foreign and domestic markets, continued large in volume.

An increase in wool production, both in this district and in the United States, is indicated by preliminary government estimates of the 1925 clip.

Value of trade in detail, as indicated by indexes of sales of 22 department stores in seven principal cities of the district, declined 8.8 per cent during July as compared with June. The decrease was less than the normal seasonal decrease from June to July, estimated at 10.7 per cent, and the index, when adjusted for seasonal variations, advanced from 147 in June, 1925, to 150 in July, 1925. In July 1924, the adjusted index stood at 142. The rate of stock turnover at reporting stores has been more rapid, and collections have been more readily made during 1925 than during 1924. Wholesale trade during July was more active than a year ago.

Horses Think, Claims Trainer Christiansen, With Great Circus



Lilhan Leitzel, although an artist, has her pet among the circus horses, and is shown in the picture petting "Pico" the favorite horse of Rose Reiffenrath, one of the Ringling-Barnum circus equestriennes. At Salem, Saturday, August 29th.

Horses think? Of course they do. At least this is the belief of Jørgen M. Christiansen, master trainer with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circus.

"Get a horse in the habit of thinking along a certain line and he will follow that single track thought," says Christiansen. He's just like your milkman's horse—after going over the route a few times he knows just where and when to start and stop.

"When the Ringlings commissioned me to train a hundred and fifty horses to perform in unison I immediately said that there was but one way to accomplish this feat. I would have to have a hippodrome track in winter quarters large enough to work the entire number at one time. I would have to have a separate barn where the hundred and fifty could be stabled together. These were given to me. For four months the same hundred and fifty were kept together day and night and always in the same relative position. That is why they never lose their places, no matter how intricate the formations that are expected of them.

"It was the biggest job I ever tackled. No more than sixty-eight horses were ever before taught to perform in unison. Some people are skeptical as to our five rings. We use the three dirt-floored circles and, that five troupes of performing horses may be presented at one time, place two additional massive wooden curbs on the raised stages. This calls seventy-six splendid thoroughbreds into play and these horses are entirely apart from the hundred and fifty. You are again skeptical, yes? Well when I write my brother in Sweden about it he replied, 'Stata skogjet' which as you in America would say, is 'quit your kidding.' But you shall see for yourselves when the big show comes to Salem, Saturday August 29th.

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139 MILES ADDED TO FEDERAL AID ROADS IN STATE

Oregon farmers and tourists now enjoy 139 miles more of federal aid highways than they did a year ago, according to the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation. This mileage, completed in the year ending June 30, cost a total of \$2,205,315, of which the federal government furnished \$1,222,370. Highway construction under this plan now under way in the state totals 133 miles, while the total mileage completed previous to last year was 655 miles.

This additional mileage, while a convenience to the tourist in the state, is a godsend to the farmer, according to the foundation. It is estimated that each and every farmer in this section of the country averages 69 tons of farm products hauled to market and 13 tons of feed, fuel, fertilizer, machinery, supplies, etc., from town. When good roads make trucks feasible this is not very burdensome, but it represents a good many hours' labor where horses and poor roads must be used. And so while the tourist finds inter-city roads mightly comfortable, to the farmer a good serviceable road from his farm to the nearest market is a downright necessity.

The expansion of hard road systems both in this and other states in recent years has given the farmer an added inducement for going into business for himself, the founda-

tion states. That he has not been slow to take advantage of the opportunity is testified in the increasing number of roadside markets on the more frequented highways. Figures show that each of these markets takes in fifteen to thirty dollars up to several hundred dollars a day, varying with the locality, the preponderance of buyers being tourists driving through the vicinity. Some of these are nothing more than stands of simple board construction while the more pretentious are housed in buildings which may be locked after the day's or the season's business. The most successful of the markets are so placed as to have convenient parking facilities where prospective buyers may examine the articles of goods, which should be of good quality yet moderately priced and attractively displayed.

FIND NO OLD FOLKS IN SPITZBERGEN CITY

Longyear City, Spitzbergen.—There are no old and very few elderly people in Spitzbergen. The great majority are husky, long-limbed lads from northern Norway of any age up to 40, with a sprink-

ling of Swedes, Finns, Scots, Russians and Germans. They all stand squarely on their feet and have fists like hams. There is practically no mortality here, the doctor in charge of the excellently equipped little hospital told an Associated Press correspondent.

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MONEY AWAITS SHEEP GROWERS

Washington, Aug. 26.—(A. P.)—The department of agriculture has \$238,250.46 it doesn't know what to do with. It belongs to some sheep growers but the department cannot find out who they are.

In 1918 the war industries board fixed the price of wool and limited the profits of dealers, who were required to turn back to the government for distribution to growers all profits exceeding a certain amount.

The excess profits of that year amounted to \$1,489,866 of which \$74,144 has been collected and so far as possible turned over to the growers. It has been impossible to obtain a record of the owners of the balance and it has about been decided to turn it into the miscellaneous receipts of the United States treasury.

BRIDE AND GROOM BOTH REARED AMONG BEASTS

Berlin, Germany.—The names of two families noted in the zoological and animal world were united here recently with the marriage of Hildegard Hagenbeck, daughter of the celebrated Hamburg animal collector, to Heinz Heck, son of the director of the Berlin zoo. Both children were born in a zoological garden and both grew up among wild beasts.

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PIERCE TALKS ON TAX REDUCTION

Portland, Or., Aug. 26.—To work towards a mutual drive for economy in cost of government, representatives from 12 western states met here yesterday for the third annual session of the Western States Taxpayers' conference.

Governor Pierce, in his address, declared that the sum total of taxes cannot be reduced owing to the rapidly increasing demands of society, but urged a more even distribution of the taxpaying burden.

The governor cited a vast array of figures to show the rich corporations paid a very low tax on a high valuation. This valuation was proved by returns made to the federal income tax department, whereas the valuation made to county and state were very low, he said.

Pierce declared the farmer is still carrying the tax burden and that efforts should be found to distribute this burden to corporations and wealthy bond and mortgage holders.

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