

## Businessmen, Industrialists To Have Prosperous Christmas

By SAM DAWSON

New York, Dec. 15 (AP)—Cheery Christmas reading today for many businessmen, many industrialists: Stock exchange price averages Tuesday hit the highest point in over a year. And the total volume of trading also was larger than at any time since a year ago November. A number of people, apparently, are betting on better days ahead.

Steel production continues its spectacular rebound from strike days. Mills this week are operating at better than 90 per cent of capacity. Output in November is announced at more than four million net tons, compared with strike-bound October's 900,000 tons. December seems aimed at still higher goals.

Building records are being broken. The bureau of labor statistics predicts more than a million new homes will have been started this year. The construction industry in general is reported to expect that 1950 will equal the estimated \$19 billion building peak being set this year.

And hand in hand go hardware sales. Stores in New York report November sales up to five per cent better than last year.

Copper deliveries in November are reported today as the highest since March, 1948. The price of tin turned stronger in Singapore yesterday and sent dealers into the London futures market for active buying.

Paperboard production is reported running six per cent ahead of last year. The industry is considered an industrial barometer because the demand for paperboard indicates a need for containers to ship goods.

Plywood prices have been rising in the northwest. Labor-

ding has spurred the demand for finished plywood.

Wool cloth output has rebounded from the mid-summer slump, and weavers now predict that the total in the final three months of the year will be as great as in the same period last year.

Airplane makers are looking for an announcement this week that the U.S. defense department will let contracts for \$975 million worth of planes. There will be more to follow. The industry can stay out of the red for quite a spell.

The frozen food industry says it will have sold one billion pounds of its products this year, an all-time record, and will do much better in 1950.

Business inventories increased \$600 million during October, the commerce department reports. The total of \$55.2 billion, however, is called about \$60 million below normal for the season.

The report casts some light on other items in the news recently: The revival of order backlogs in some companies who hadn't known them for months; the rush of stores to re-order certain goods after shoppers had cleaned out the shelves; and, of course, the effect of the steel and coal strikes.

## Provided Girls For Tradesmen

Los Angeles, Dec. 15 (AP)—It's common business practice in Hollywood to provide prostitutes for visiting trade associates, a superior court jury was told today at the extortion trial of two accused party girls.

The witness was Ben H. Klekner, greying head of a television school. He testified that on occasion he had arranged women for dates with salesmen and other associates in business.

"Do you mean to tell me," asked defense attorney Glenn Lane, "that it is common practice to employ prostitutes to entertain associates?"

"Yes, generally," answered Klekner. "When I wanted to get the favor of certain key salesmen I would provide party girls who would dine and dance and entertain them, as a matter of good business practice and to obtain good will."

Earlier, Klekner told the jury he so feared the threats of the two defendants that he nailed shut the windows of his home and tried to hire a guard for his three children.

On trial, accused of extortion are red haired Helen Keller, 27, and her roommate, Toni Hughes, 29, moon-faced brunette. Klekner says he paid them some \$9000 not to tell his family of his extra-marital romances.

The president of the University of Hollywood, a mail order television school, testified that the reason he paid some \$9000 to the women was through fear of being exposed to his family as an adulterer. He said the payments took place in 1946, 1947 and 1948.

## CAR TUNES



## Priests Asked To Help Housing

Portland, Dec. 15 (AP)—Catholic priests were urged Wednesday to help work for the low-cost housing provided by the 1949 federal housing act.

Msgr. John O'Grady, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, told the Northwest Conference of Social Problems that public interest must be enlisted to make the program succeed.

"The priest can have a tremendous influence in having this program carried out in his city," the Washington, D. C., cleric said.

He called government subsidization of low-income families' housing the only apparent solution.

"Private enterprise, by and large, is not doing all it could to provide housing—even for those who can afford to pay more," he said. "We looked for a solution in private enterprise,

## Rat Campaign OK In Central Oregon

Portland, Ore., Dec. 15 (AP)—Milton H. Buehler, Jr., consultant of the state board of health who specializes in rat-killing campaigns, today said his business was like any other, some good, some bad.

Buehler who has set up lethal campaigns here and in Umatilla county, explained that the bulk of central Oregon was ratless.

"I couldn't find one rat anywhere out there," he said, "and I looked in all the likely places at Bend, Prineville, Redmond and Madras."

Sprigs of holly were exchanged as good wish tokens at the Roman festival of Saturnalia.

but there is none." Portland is slated to get 2,000 low-cost, low-rent units. They probably will be made available to families with income under \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Thursday, Dec. 15, 1949—29  
Ketchikan would record at least 215 inches for this year's 12-month period by December 31, 1917. The weatherman predicted more rain for tomorrow and said

## All-Time Record for Rainfall in Ketchikan

Ketchikan, Alaska, Dec. 15 (AP)—A new all-time record in rainfall already has been set for 1949 in this southeast Alaska seacoast fishing center.

The weather bureau reported that a total of 200.32 inches of rain had fallen by noon today since last January 1. The previous annual rainfall record of 190.32 inches was established in

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