

American Business Men Refuse to Be Depressed

NEW YORK (AP)—Scattered new signs of an easing in business activity were noted this week, but the average American businessman steadfastly refused to be depressed.

There were, in fact, developments here and there that tended to support the confident views being expressed by the majority of business leaders.

New plant investment is expected to reach a record for the quarter at \$4 billion dollars.

Retail sales are good—the na-

tion's department stores did 7 per cent more business last week than they did a year earlier.

Wage rates are at record levels. And there's an awful lot of money in American savings accounts.

Counterbalancing these factors were cutbacks in some key industries and further layoffs in others. However, even where the outlook was poor, it could hardly be called black.

The most tangible evidence that business is slipping from its high plateau was provided in new lay-off announcements. Packard Motor Car Co. announced it will close down assembly operations on Monday for a week and furlough about 7,500 workers. It blamed parts shortage. The Aluminum Co. of America said it has laid off 350 men in the past six weeks "to meet changing economic conditions in the aluminum industry."

The Pennsylvania Railroad announced that 600 to 700 heavy repair workers will be furloughed because of a continued drop in business. Chance Vought Aircraft at Dallas said it planned to drop 1,000 employees immediately and another 1,000 later because of a cut back in jet fighter production.

But at South Bend, Ind., Studebaker Corp. canceled plans to lay off 3,000 men and shortened the tractor works at Waterloo, Iowa, called back 500 because of a "firming up" in demand for tractors.

The chairman of U. S. Steel, Benjamin F. Fairless, said this week that he is still optimistic about the 1954 business outlook, commenting: "It won't be as good as 1953 but still will be good."

But a note of warning was struck by Harold B. Drazey, head of the Argus Research Corp. of New York. He said many executives are over-optimistic about the business outlook, assuming that prices of their own products will maintain present high levels despite ample evidence of oversupply.

Bergman Takes Military Post

FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT, Norfolk, Va.—Comdr. Howard J. Bergman, USN, will relieve Comdr. Rowland F. Schlegel, USN, next week as assistant district legal officer and admiralty officer.

The new assistant legal officer reports to Norfolk from Commander in Chief, USN Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. He served with this command as an assistant legal officer specializing in admiralty claims and the legal aspects of NATO agreements.

Bergman is a native of Salem, Oregon, where his mother, Mrs. Bertha Bergman, still resides. Prior to accepting a direct commission in the navy as a lieutenant junior grade in July, 1941, he practiced law at Baker, Oregon, from 1934 to 1941, and for two years was district attorney for Baker county.

During his service with the navy, Comdr. Bergman has become a specialist in admiralty cases which deal with ship collisions.

Milk Hearing Set At Redmond Jan. 21

Portland (UP)—The Oregon Milk Marketing Administration will hold a public hearing at Redmond January 21 on problems relating to marketing of fluid milk in the central Oregon area.

Handling the meeting will be W. S. Weidel, examiner for the administration. The hearing will open at 1 p.m. in the Redmond City Hall and will concern the milk marketing situation in Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook and Harney counties.

Health Talk

By Dr. J. A. Rombough (D.C., N.D.), 1515 State St.

Your Investment

When health runs down and seems impossible to reclaim, then each person realizes he is an investment and his health is not exactly his own concern alone. It is a matter also—of importance to his family, his work associates, and to his country.

The investment that is most interesting, rather than the income that is most interesting, is the kind that comes from ability that you know is growing greater. Health is back of every ambitious man's effort, if he is to succeed.

Keep this investment sound. Maintain good health. Our Natural Methods of Treating the Sick and of Maintaining Good Health is the best investment insurance possible today. All those who realize the importance of health are including this Natural Method as a necessary part of an occasional health inventory of their greatest investment—good health. Our Natural Method succeeds because it has to do directly with the spine as well as other parts of the body. The spine, as you know, is the center and distributor of nerve and life impulses. Look well to your health investment today.

You and Your Hearing

Should the Hard-of-Hearing Person Select His Own Fitting?

Many deafened individuals are "sound starved" when they first begin the use of a hearing aid and tend to turn up the volume control too high. It is generally advisable for this reason to limit the volume available during the first weeks of use of a hearing aid by special adjustments or by providing lower voltage batteries.

Hard of hearing persons suffering from certain types of deafness become so accustomed to sound that they tend, at first, to prefer it and dislike a more corrective type of fitting.

One authority made an exhaustive study of the subject. He concluded that although the judgements and observations of the hard of hearing subjects were reliable as to such things as threshold and most comfortable loudness level "when it comes to the question, 'With which kind of amplification (or loudness) do you hear best?', the experience of the authors indicates that his judgement is not reliable—even when he conscientiously sets himself against choosing the one he 'likes' best.

Until he becomes used to the proper fitting, he almost invariably chooses as 'best' a 'peaked' amplifier or one which increases

Man Held for Theft Of Crusher Jaws

ALBANY—Gordon Baxter, 34, in the Linn county jail in default of \$1500 bail facing a larceny charge because of a theft he is alleged to have committed Nov. 15.

Stolen were two 300-pound crusher jaws from the L. & G. Sand & Gravel Co. plant, sold to a local junk dealer. Suspecting the jaws were stolen, the dealer immediately reported the sale to Sheriff George Miller.

The gravel company operators had not missed the jaws until recently and consequently had not reported the theft.

Baxter is also accused of having sold a battery taken from a combine near Jefferson. He was arraigned in district court after being arrested by city police on a county warrant and demanded a preliminary hearing, to be held later.

Macleay

MACLEAY—Reliable Bakers 4-H club members met at the home of the club leader, Mrs. Virgil Burson, Wednesday afternoon.

The discussion subject was "The Use of Milk in Cooking." All members helped prepare tapioca pudding.

Toynetta Waters and Sharon Kronbuegel prepared and served creamed cheese sauce on toast. Others present were Barbara Beam, Darlene Betteloun, Carol Burson and the club leader, Burson.

Linda Arnett was absent because of illness.

In some tasks, like driving, a certain amount of distraction raises efficiency, says the Better Vision Institute.

By L. A. Watson

Editor's Note: L. A. Watson is the founder and president of the Medical Acoustic Instrument Company (MAICO), Minneapolis, Minn. A tireless researcher, author and lecturer, he has addressed hearing societies and medical groups throughout the world. He is the author of "Hearing Tests and Hearing Instruments," a 600-page text used by leading colleges and universities, on which the following is based.

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Sale Building Up in December

Nineteen major Oregon cities reported December building permits of \$2,791,063, eight per cent under the \$4,101,404 reported in December, 1952. Salem was one of the bright spots, with \$209,040, an increase of 116 per cent. Eight of the 19 reported gains. Portland reported \$2,720,535, 13 per cent over December, 1952.

The figures for the two December months follow:

Albany	12,466	28,960	-56
Astoria	4,548	22,850	-75
Baker	18,700	5,900	183
Bend	23,191	55,905	-41
Corvallis	21,950	96,150	-77
Eugene	196,511	128,890	47
Grants Pass	99,835	162,730	-39
Klamath Falls	9,000	12,915	-33
LaGrande	8,425	4,543	75
Coos Bay	62,290	515,000	-88
Medford	68,100	50,260	-27
Prineville	3,430	29,200	-88
Oregon City	16,100	101,900	-84
Portland	2,720,535	2,409,715	13
Richmond	29,055	42,185	-30
St. Helens	2,550	23,000	-89
Salem	209,040	124,784	116
Springfield	14,250	77,800	-81
The Dalles	51,770	87,161	-37
Total Oregon	2,791,063	4,101,404	-8

Weather Must Be Watched by Drivers

Changing temperatures, plus rain and snow, can be the downfall of an unwary motorist, the state traffic safety division reminded Friday.

With weather conditions in all Oregon varying greatly, safety men said drivers should remember that temperature changes present a real hazard to those who do not continuously "get the feel of the road."

Take the driver who starts out on an icy road early in the morning while it still is quite cold. He finds traction and stopping ability fairly good. But as the sun comes out, temperature rises, and the ice becomes much more treacherous.

Studies reveal that at 20 miles an hour when the temperature is zero, stopping distance on ice is 110 feet. But when the mercury rises to 32 degrees above zero, stopping distance for the same speed is 250 feet, a difference of 140 feet.

Safety men also warned that ice or slippery spots can sometimes be found on bridges when other sections of roadway are bare. Unless a driver is aware of this hazard, a bad skid is likely.

SHELLEY WINTERS TO SEEK DIVORCE

Rome (UP)—Shelley Winters announced today, with tears in her eyes, she is ready to divorce Italian actor Vittorio Gassman because she said she found out he married her and broke her heart purely for publicity.

IRON LUNG PULPIT



Rev. Maurice Hardman, 29-year-old Anglican minister, speaks into a microphone to make a tape recording for his congregation in Stonewall, Man. Stricken with polio, he has been in the lung in a Winnipeg hospital four months. It took 15 minutes to record the eight-minute sermon because a lung patient can speak only when the lung allows him to exhale. (AP Wirephoto)

Dallas Reports Business Good

DALLAS—Business year very good, thank you, report the post-office and Polk County Savings and Loan Association.

With total receipts for 1953 \$56,679.80, a gain of \$3,632.46 was shown by the Dallas postoffice, Carl Black, postmaster, states. Receipts of \$40,000 are required for first class rating, which the local postoffice attained a number of years ago.

Total cancellations for the year were 1,155,684 as compared with 1,180,053 in 1952. Cancellations for the month of December, 1953, were 198,339 as compared with 200,451 last year.

There were practically no increases in man hours and very few changes in the personnel, according to Black.

Assets of the Polk County Federal Savings & Loan association also reached a new high of \$2,247,201.72 for the past year, according to the report of Tom Newton, secretary-manager, as presented to the annual shareholders meeting.

Directors elected at the shareholders meeting were Laird V. Woods, T. B. Hooker and J. J. Wick.

At the directors meeting following the shareholders meeting, Woods was re-elected president, Earle Richardson, vice-president,

Woodburn WSCS Will Meet Tuesday

WOODBURN—Mrs. N. F. Tyler will be hostess at her home for the regular meeting of the Women's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist church. Co-hostesses will be Mrs. P. L. LaBarr, Mrs. George A. Landon and Mrs. Paul Mills.

Leif S. Finseth, Chairman of the Board, Tom Newton is Elected Secretary-Manager.

Woods, Richardson and Hooker were named as appraisers. Other directors are Frank Guy and Finseth.

The association moved into new quarters in September, and will complete its 20th year of operation March 20, 1954.

District Court at Albany Busy

ALBANY—Linn county received a total of \$36,821.40 through channels of the newly created district court, District Judge Wendell Tompkins revealed this week end.

During the year, Judge Tompkins reported, 2123 criminal cases were processed, including traffic law violation charges, which yielded \$33,635 in fines, bail forfeitures and court costs. The 842 civil cases filed during 1953 yielded an additional \$2951.75 in fees and \$234.63 for the county law library fund.

National Y Week January 24 to 30

National YMCA Week will be observed nationwide from January 24 to January 30. YMCAs all over the country will conduct special programs to endeavor to interpret the YMCA program to its community.

Here in Salem several special events will take place during the week such as: father and son no-host suppers by the Jr.-Hi and Yi-Y clubs, a special square dance party on Wednesday, January 27 and a special gym show put on by the boys and girls of the Y for their parents and friends on Friday, January 29.

This is also Special Guest Week at the YMCA and any person who desires may get a Special Guest Pass to use the facilities of the YMCA.

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- 1 GROUP - VAL. TO 49.95 **29.00**
- 1 GROUP - VAL. TO 59.95 **34.00**
- 1 GROUP - VAL. TO 69.95 **39.00**

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- 1 Group Val. to 19.95 **7.00**
- 1 Group Val. to 22.95 **11.00**
- 1 Group Val. to 29.95 **13.00**
- 1 Group Val. to 34.95 **15.00**
- 1 Group Val. to 39.95 **17.00**
- 1 Group Val. to 69.95 **39.00**

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Banks at Lebanon End Prosperous Year

LEBANON—Year-end statement of condition figures were released this week by the First National bank of Lebanon, showing that as of Dec. 31, 1953, deposits were \$11,307,885, a slight drop over one year ago when deposits were \$11,699,364.

Loans at year-end were \$5,887,149, against \$6,111,385 of last year, and resources of \$12,639,214 were somewhat lower than the total of \$12,946,168 which was released on Dec. 31, 1952.

Lebanon's second banking house, the Bank of Lebanon, has increased its resources from \$2,090,851 on Dec. 31, 1952, to \$2,565,480, according to a statement issued this week by A. K. Parker, executive vice-president.

Loans and deposits have also shown sizeable increase with deposits on Dec. 31 totaling \$2,109,936, against a deposit of \$1,728,480 a year ago, Parker said, and loans are up to \$852,950 against \$451,576 a year ago.

HOSPITAL OPENS IN PUSAN

TOKYO (AP)—A 400-bed German Red Cross hospital which once served German civilians will open soon in Pusan to treat Korean civilians.

BELGIAN RED OUSTED BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—One of the founders of the Belgian Communist party, Georges Canivet, has been expelled from it. An announcement from the party's political control committee said he was expelled for "deep and persisting differences with the political line of the party."

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