

Economic Highlights

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual. National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.

Labor Day marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall, from the industrial standpoint. In an ordinary year, manufacturers speed up production after the seasonal summer drop, retailers build up inventories and the industrial machine swings into high gear after a few months of idling.

This year, in the face of seasonal influences, there was little summer recession—most businesses continued to make progress during the hot vacation month. And, as fall begins, all the signs point to continued improvement. The national election notwithstanding, the recovery movement seems to be so strong that nothing can seriously dampen it. The feeling that the movement will be little affected by the results of the election is becoming more widespread.

There is also a feeling that whether Landon or Roosevelt wins the course of the national government can not be greatly changed. It is probably true that Mr. Landon would make an effort to reduce taxes—but he, like the President, is pledged to Federal aid to farmers, the needy and others, all of which costs money. He has likewise gone on record in favor of a Federal social security law. Mr. Landon would not, according to all observers, be an experimenter—but there is a feeling that the next Congress will hold a check rein on any new major experiments by Mr. Roosevelt, in the event of his reelection.

Some recent reports follow, taken from various authoritative sources: **AUTOMOBILES**—Production has dropped sharply, due to preparation for new models. Production will be high during the next few months, may touch record figures. There have been no major changes in the automobile field, and new cars will not be much different from 1935 models save in details. Important development is a Packard entry in the low-medium price field where competition is keenest. Commercial car makers expect to sell 600,000 units this year, which will surpass 1929.

STEEL—This basic industry is holding up extremely well, is operating at around 70 per cent of capacity with gains forecast for the immediate future. Steel price lists are being revised upward by most big mills.

TEXTILES—This is another basic industry which is holding to high levels, will continue to better production and sales figures. The cotton mills are exceptionally active.

UTILITIES—Electric power consumption has surprised everyone—it is commonly said that surplus production capacity, on the average, may get too low this fall and result in big construction activities by the power companies. The private utilities, as well as the government, are giving much thought and effort to speeding rural electrification developments. The rate level continues to gradually decline.

RAILROADS—Some lines are faced with the prospect of equipment shortages, due to stimulated freight business. Upshot is that rolling stock buying is on a high level, will probably jump sharply soon. The railroad profits are better than in any recent year, but still average less than 3 per cent after payment of fixed charges.

AIR TRANSPORT—Is establishing new records, according to Business Week—for the first time in the industry's history, passengers carried exceeded 100,000 in July.

EMPLOYMENT—All surveys show that the unemployed rolls are decreasing, but slowly. And it is a sad but true fact that the rise in industrial production has not been accompanied by an equivalent percentage rise in workers employed. One interesting result of this is found in the political platforms. When the President started Federal relief for the unemployed, Republican spokesmen were biting in denunciation. Now Republican leaders, including Governor Landon, favor it, though they criticize New Deal methods.

Yes, the business picture is painted in bright colors these days. And the commentators are still wondering what effect that will have on the presidential race. Will the electorate give the credit for it to Mr. Roosevelt and endorse him—or will it regard the betterment as being inevitable, think that a Republican president could speed matters up still more? Surveys indicate that the election will be very close, with the betting odds favoring Mr. Roosevelt.

Thought for election day: In very few countries can the people express their opinion of the government—either informally or in their official capacity as voters.

To denounce Hitler in Germany means death or long imprisonment. To speak a word against Mussolini in Italy makes you the worst possible insurance risk. To mildly criticize Stalin in the U.S.S.R. gives employment to a firing squad. So it goes in Poland, Rumania, Spain, Austria and elsewhere.

In this country you can say that Landon or Roosevelt is a "so-and-so" and no one will bother you.

Warnings of Danger of Fires from Poor Wiring and Fixtures

Most of the electrical fires in homes result from one of three causes—overheated flatirons, tampered fuses, or defective wires (including flexible cords). Of course, there are some other causes but these three are the most common. Flatiron fires are probably the most common causes of all. It is surprising how often housewives and maids forget their irons and let them ignite the ironing boards. We saw one report recently where an iron burned through the ironing board, fell to the floor and burned a hole clear through the floor. We have found that it is practically impossible to start a fire with the newer type of automatic flatirons so we advocate their use. Before these irons become hot enough to burn fabric or wood they automatically turn off the current. This might be worth mentioning but of course is not the answer for those women who have non-automatic irons. For these women, a caution to always disconnect the iron by pulling out the attachment plug is the best that can be done. When the cord has been disconnected there is no question about the iron being off, but if the iron is connected to a key or pullchain socket or controlled by a wall switch, it is easy to make a mistake and think the iron is off when it really is on. Irons should be connected to a convenience outlet in the wall rather than to a socket. Sockets have not the current-carrying capacity to supply irons and should not be used.

A close second to the flatiron in causing electrical fires is the flexible cord. If the wires in the walls have been properly installed by a capable electrician and have been inspected, there is not so much danger from this source, but when the circuit is extended out into a room through a flexible cord, there seems to be no limit to the abuse that a cord can get. Even the best cords are given a severe test and the less rugged ones go to pieces quickly. Unfortunately, the country has experienced an epidemic of low quality cords which have been bought readily by householders who have not realized that there may be hazard in their use. We believe that the public would not hesitate to pay two or three cents more for an appliance or a cord to get a product built up to recognized safety standards if they were advised how to distinguish between standard and sub-standard cords. There are some cords on the market with insulation that is considerably below standard thickness and is made of an unvulcanized compound of very low grade rubber. It is possible to cause a short-circuit in these cords simply by stepping on them. In the last four years such cords have caused more than 500 fires in the city of Chicago. As electrical inspectors, we urge the use of cords which comply in all respects with the safety standards of Underwriters' Laboratories. It is easy to identify these cords by the bracelet-like labels wrapped around the cords at intervals of five feet.

Fuses are another source of hazard which might well be mentioned. The fuse is the safety valve of the electrical system and when it is in good working order will safeguard against short circuits that may occur anywhere in the house. The fuse contains a link of metal which will melt when too much current passes through it and in so melting, opens the circuit. If a fuse has been tampered with, by a so-called "handy man" or a boy who wanted to be helpful, and a piece of metal which will not melt substituted for the fuse link, the safety function of the fuse has been entirely defeated. After a fuse has blown, the circuit should be restored only by inserting a new fuse, either by the occupant or by a service man which the power company will send promptly to most localities.

It is important to use fuses of the proper rating for the wires in the house. If fuses of too high rating are used, they will not blow out when the wires are overloaded, that is when too many appliances are connected to the circuit at the same

Lowden Will Speak For Landon



"We're agreed on what must be done for the farmer," said Frank O. Lowden (left), former governor of Illinois and long a champion of Middle Western farmers, after this meeting with Gov. Alf M. Landon of Kansas, Republican Presidential candidate in Chicago. Mr. Lowden, a pioneer in the field of soil conservation, plans a series of speeches for Governor Landon, the first of which will be made over the Columbia nationwide radio network on October 6th.

U. O. Rifle Team Wins First Place

University of Oregon, Eugene, September 30.—Although the University of Hawaii R.O.T.C. rifle team placed first with a score of 214.73 to win the trophy, "Warrior of the Pacific", the University of Oregon 34 man squad ranked highest of all institutions in the Continental United States. It was announced here by Colonel E.V.D. Murphy, commandant of the unit here.

The University team was but five points behind the Hawaii squad, which entered a team of 22 men. The score is figured as the average per man, and Oregon with a much larger group made a mark of 209.09.

The average set by the Oregon marksmen was well ahead of the nearest competitor, the University of Maine, which scored an average of 197.72. Rutgers University, with a score of 193.7, was next followed in order by Creighton University, 191.17; Oklahoma A. & M., 191.05; University of Michigan, 185.83, and The Citadel, 184.6.

Governor Martin To Deliver Address At Mining Meet

ROSEBURG, Ore.—Actual mining work, prospects for minerals in various localities, and value of mineral surveys will be practical topics to be taken up at the Southwestern Oregon mineral resources conference to be held here October 3. It was announced here today by J. A. Harding, chairman of the Douglas county planning commission.

Governor Martin will enter into these discussions with practical mine operators, and will deliver the main address at the noon luncheon. It was announced. The session will be under the joint auspices of the Douglas county planning commission and the chamber of commerce here.

The state planning board will hold its October session here Saturday also, and in the afternoon people of this section will have an opportunity to meet with the board members and discuss problems of this region. It is announced.

The complete program for the mining conference includes a description and progress report of the Douglas county mineral survey, by C. C. Fristoe, who is in charge of the project; panel discussion by representatives of Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry, Lane, and Douglas counties of possible value of other mineral surveys; luncheon at noon with Governor Martin as speaker, and afternoon session for discussion of problems growing out of development and conservation of Oregon's mineral resources.

All citizens of Southern Oregon interested in any phase of mining are invited to attend the session, Mr. Harding announces. The meeting is expected to draw several hundred people.

A tour of the area covered in the Douglas county mineral survey will be available to those who are interested. It is stated.

Telephone 601 For The American

White House Daughter Out for Landon



Granddaughter of Gen. U. S. Grant, Madam Julia Cantacuzine, who was born in the White House, is an ardent worker to elect Gov. Alf M. Landon, Republican Presidential nominee. "We must vote for an American to guide us who believes in all the meaning of the word 'Republic' as our forefathers, not Stalin, chose to interpret it for us," she says.

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"Rock of Marne" Papers are Placed In O.S.C. Museum

The most important documents connected with the career of the late Major General U. G. MacAlexander, as well as valuable war mementos are on display in the Horner museum at Oregon State college where they have been added to the permanent collections.

One of the most interesting exhibits is a large special book filled with the commissions and citations that marked General MacAlexander's career from the time he was appointed as a cadet to the United States military academy until he was commissioned to one of the highest ranks in the army. His commissions bear the original signatures of Presidents Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, William Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, and Calvin Coolidge.

The citations contained in the collection include some of the highest awards from the French, Italian, and American governments. One large display case contains 25 items of war mementos, including a bullet-riddled helmet worn by him in the battle from which he received his nickname of "Rock of the Marne."

Quirk in Postal Regulations Found

A peculiar quirk in postal regulations has just come to light in the local postoffice, following the appearance of a number of letters in the mails with the words, "Repeal Has Failed", imprinted with a rubber stamp in the lower left hand corner.

Explanation of the slogan now appearing on thousands of letters going through the mails is found in the fact that approximately 30,000 rubber stamps have been circulated for



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