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Economic Highlights—

As everybody knows, the national income is higher than it ever was. So are wages and prices—the two have a habit of moving pretty much in unison—and so are taxes. Armies o fpeople are earning two or three times as much as in the prewar era.

Yet a great many Americans, desipte this statistical prosperity, are going deeper and deeper into debt. Higher incomes have been offset and then some by higher outgo. That is the theme of a Wall Street Journal news article aptly headed "Debts, Debts, Debts."

The paper cites case histories of people its reporters interviewed in various cities. These people represent a wide range of occupations and incomes. A Chicago steelworker earning more than $5,000 a year is worried and in debt—the strike intensified his troubles, but he had them before it was called. A Detroit couple earning $6,800 has cut its entertainment budget in half and hasn't saved anything for over a year. A $20,000 a year executive has no debts outside of charge accounts and a big mortgage, but thinks he may have to buy a new fur coat for his wife on the installment plan. A San Francisco stenographer said she's always $50 behind, and that her last vacation put her $250 in the red.

These comments, the Wall Street Journal points out, square with Federal Reserve Board figures on outstanding consumer credit. When last August began, the total was $21,200,000,000—a record—which marked a $2,000,000,000 jump in one year. They also fit in with a Bureau of Labor Statistics report, covering the 1950 financial experience of families in various income brackets in 91 communities. During that year the average family in this group had income after taxes of $4,300 and spent $4,700, for a $400 deficit.

A superficially confusing aspect to the picture is found in the fact that savings, as well as debts, are also at record levels—the Commerce Department finds that they were rising at the annual rate of $16,500,000,000 during the second quarter of this year. That is accounted for, in part, the Journal says, because "this definitiion of savings, of course, includes a lot of things many people wouldn't consider savings, such as repayment of debts on consumer goods—so the bigger such debts, and the more the repayments, the more the 'savings.' " Also the 50 cent dollars make larger totals.

Lots of people are getting along nicely and are staying out of debt. The Journal quotes a number of these good managers, some in modest income brackets, who have more possessions than ever and still are making both ends meet. But they seem to be exceptions to the rule.

Here i one fly in the ointment of this depreciated money era, and various developments substantiate it. For instance, the steel strike made a hole in automobile production. Yet this scarcity of cars, which some dealers thought would bring in a flood of eager searchers for new machines, was accompanied by a scarcity of buyers. Save for a small handful of makes and models, no one has to wait for the new car of his choice, despite the drop in factory output.

To sum up, most of us have many more dollars to rattle around than we ever had before—but they don't go very far. And many of us are substantially worse off, if we make an honest accounting, than in times when prices, taxes and incomes were all much lower.

Ninth Child From Lakeview Family Registers at OSC

Oregon State College—Final touch to one of Oregon's proudest family educational records has come at Oregon State college this fall with the registration of the 9th child of the M. P. J. Barry family of Lakeview.

Latest Barry to become an Oregon Stater is 18-year-old Jere, who is majoring in agriculture. His older sister, Jo, a sophomore in physical education, is also attending OSC and another sister, Anne, will be back spring term to graduate in education after completing requirements for her elementary teaching certificate at the Oregon College of Education in Monmouth.

The oldest member of the family, Catharine, started the September trips to Corvallis in 1934, the year Jere was born. Phillip came two years later followed by Eileene in 1938; Ellen, 1942; Julia, 1943; William, 1947; and then Anne, Jo and Jere.

Only two of the 11 Barry children have missed OSC. ohn stayed home to care for the big family ranch and Agnes went to the University of Oregon.

Neither Mr. Barry, who died two years ago, nor Mrs. Barry, who certainly must qualify for the "Mrs. Oregon State" title, attended OSC.

Oregon Farm Census Shows Big Increase In Acreages, Value

Some interesting sidelights on Oregon's agriculture at the mid-century mark have come from an analysis of recent census data by Mrs. Elvera Horrell, OSC extension agricultural economist.

The census shows that nearly twice as much Oregon land is being farmed today as 50 years ago with a sharp increase in the number of farms.

At the present time, Oregon has slightly more than 20,300,000 acres of land in farms. In 1900, the figure was 10,071,328. The number of farms are jumped from the 35,837 total in 1900 to the present-day 59,-827.

Average-sized farm at the opening of the century was 281 acres. Today that figure is up to 339.

In dollar and cent value, there has been a tremendous increase, of course. The bureau of agricultural economics of the USDA earlier this year estimated the total value of farm lands and buildings in Oregon at 1,451,000,000. The 1900 census figure was $172,761,287.

While Oregon's agriculture today boasts of its diversification and the great number of crops that are grown in the state, the census comparisons show that 1900 had an edge in at least a case or two. Fifty years ago, for example, the census listed 14 acres of tobacco plus 1 acre of peanuts. Some 22 head of elk were also found on the farm animal report.