

Luxuries Boost Cost of Living

Taste for New Foods, Garments and Amusements Acquired by the Public.

PROBLEM SUBJECT OF STUDY

Prices Have Not Risen so Much as the Number of Commodities Regarded as Necessities Has Multiplied.

Washington, D. C.—Nearly all the strikes in recent years have been to obtain higher wages or to prevent the reduction of existing wages. In some strikes only issues involving hours of labor and other working conditions have been involved, but, generally speaking, the strikes have been wage strikes.

Since prices of commodities started to go up with the outbreak of the European war special stress has been laid on the elements of the cost of living as the principal argument for wage increases or for retention, rather than reduction, of established wage scales.

This has led to special studies of the problem of the cost of living. One fact established is that prices have not risen so much as the number of commodities regarded as necessities has multiplied. In truth, the prices of some staples are substantially lower than they were years ago. Further, many commodities are within the range of comparatively low-wage workers which, because of rarity or high price, were formerly wholly out of their reach. The net result of the study is that the whole question of the cost of living is relative.

Exact Comparisons Can't Be Made.

There is scarcely any one who does not agree that the people should have the additional things which they enjoy under modern conditions, but there is a desire to emphasize that exact comparisons cannot be made and that to say that the cost of living has increased is not wholly fair. The more precise statement is that the cost of modern living has increased.

Take the single item of ice cream. Formerly it was altogether a luxury. Today, everyurchin on the streets has an ice cream cone daily and sometimes several a day.

Every American city spends several thousand dollars a day for ice cream. This is an entirely new addition to the cost of living, and it may be pointed out that it is not fair to call this an increase in the cost of living. It merely is an addition to the cost of living. If a given city spends \$30,000 a day for ice cream the citizens of that city have added \$30,000 a day to their cost of living by making this expenditure. This is an addition, not an increase, in the cost of living of \$210,000 a week; \$10,920,000 a year. We spend, in addition, \$1,000,000 a day for ice, a comparatively modern convenience.

Another immediate comparison is the motion picture show. Two decades ago movies were scarce. A few were operating, but the universal admission charge was 5 cents. Today the American public spends approximately \$1,000,000,000 a year on the

movies. This is \$10 a piece for every man, woman and child in the nation. These instances could be multiplied almost endlessly. The country is flooded with novelties in the way of new foods, new sorts of wearing apparel, new amusements and a thousand and one other new things totally unknown to and unused by the man of only one generation ago.

What Automobiles Cost.

Perhaps the single biggest addition to the cost of living is the automobile. Not so many years ago the horseless carriage was a curiosity regarded as practical only by visionaries. Today every tenth person in the United States has one. This means that every second family has one. A low average cost of running an automobile is \$1 a day. This means that the American people spend \$10,000,000 a day for automobile upkeep, as there are 10,000,000 automobiles. This amounts to \$3,650,000,000 a year, admittedly a conservative figure.

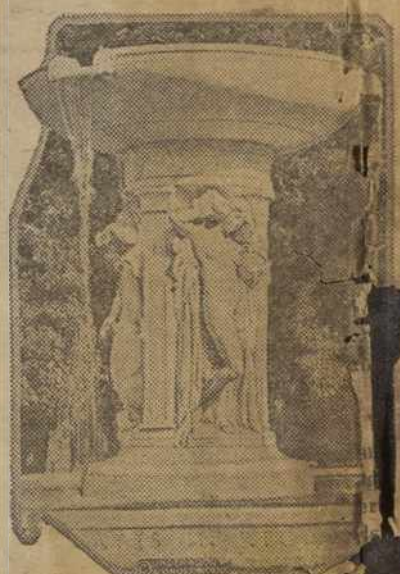
A fair average price for an automobile is \$1,000 and an automobile will last, on an average, five years. Then, if a \$1,000 car lasts five years, it costs \$200 a year, in addition to the upkeep. There are 10,000,000 cars in use. This makes \$2,000,000,000 a year.

What the economists point out is that the American standard of living is so high that it misleads many people. Our people spend a lot but they get a lot. Recently two Scandinavian-born Americans met. One had been to his old home and was telling the other of the good fortune that had

befallen one of their mutual friends. He said that the man had become rich. He had done so well, the man explained, that he had bought himself a bicycle!

There is a concrete example of what is meant by saying that the cost of living has not increased in America so much as the scale of living has increased. Americans have more than any other people in the world, they are surrounded with a bewildering variety of goods, most of which are within reach of the comparatively deep purses of the wage workers. It is an old adage that he who pays the piper is entitled to call the tune. Americans call an expensive tune.

DUPONT FOUNTAIN



After months of waiting for the approval of congress, the water has turned on in the beautiful fountain at DuPont circle in Washington. This memorial to Admiral DuPont, a hero of Civil War fame, is the most beautiful fountain in the capital.

Washington Real National Center

Capital Is Headquarters for More Organizations Than Any Other American City.

VAST RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

Their Establishments Range From Modest Quarters in Office Buildings to Magnificent Edifices—Run Gamut of Human Activities.

Washington, D. C.—This city has become the headquarters of more national organizations and associations than any other city in the country. This is evidence of the growth of Washington as a great national center, but it is even more indicative of the manner in which the federal government touches upon and affects every activity and every interest of the American people.

A recent compilation, admittedly incomplete, lists almost 300 of these organizations. They run the gamut of human activities—commercial, professional, political, patriotic, industrial, social, artistic, educational, fraternal, scientific, financial, religious, philanthropic and what not. Their establishments range from modest quarters in office buildings to magnificent edifices that represent investments running into the millions. They give employment to thousands of men and women. They expend millions of dollars annually.

Vast Range of Activities.

They represent the selfishness and unselfishness, the achievements and undertakings, the aspirations and dreams, of a great people. They seek to do everything from rehabilitating convicts to immortalizing the nation's great, from lobbying bills through congress to scotching the demon rum, from practicing practical politics to inculcating high ideals of citizenship, from preaching peace to preparing for war, from encouraging art to con-

trolling world affairs, and from advancing the cause of labor to protecting the interests of capital.

Some are constructive, some are destructive. Some are boosters, some are knockers, and all are propagandists.

Some do their work to an accompaniment of brass bands and invite the whole world to know what they are doing. Others are secretive, and, like providence, work in a mysterious way their wonders to perform.

to influence the course of human action or of events. It is not to be inferred that their efforts in this direction are anything but legitimate, as they represent people and interests that have a right to be heard in matters of that kind. Members of congress sometimes grow restive under the pressure and importunities to which they are subjected, but they recognize the fact in the long run they receive valuable information and assistance in their lawmaking.

The secret of the success of these organizations is that administrations and congresses come and go, but they stay on forever and keep everlastingly at whatever they set out to accomplish. Fine Building Erected. A few of the 300 organizations that hold forth in Washington have erected fine buildings that contribute materially to the beauty of the city. The American Red Cross, the Daughters of the Revolution and the Pan-American Union all have magnificent homes in Seventeenth street on the way to Potomac park that rank high among the architectural beauties of the capital city. The American Federation of Labor has a splendid office building in Massachusetts avenue at Ninth street and close by a similar structure, reared and occupied by the International Brotherhood of Machinists.

Probably the feature building of them all will be the new home of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, now in course of erection, with the Scottish Rite temple in Sixteenth street and a new edifice on the old Dean estate on which the Masons will spend millions are illustrative of what fraternal orders have done to enhance the attractions of Washington. The National Geographic society is another organization that has a fine home of its own.

Of the political organizations established in Washington the most important are, of course, the Democratic and Republican national committees. Each occupies a great suite in a downtown office building and each maintains a force and equipment that is prepared to do anything except make money.

The Socialist party also maintains offices here, as does also that organization that is undertaking a coalition of the farmer and labor vote and that may ultimately take the form of a new party. The woman's national party is represented in Washington and the organizations that fought for and against suffrage maintain headquarters, although much of the political activity of women is now linked up with the organization work of the national committee of the old established parties.

Greatest of all the national organizations maintaining headquarters here are one that is popularly supposed to represent all the people all the time is the government itself. It is the colossal machine and all the others are but cogs or wheels within wheels.—Fredrick J. Haskin in the Chicago Daily News.

Poor Prognosticator

By R. RAY BAKER

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Nobody had any faith in the weather man. Nobody ever has faith in any weather man, unless it is negative. "I see by the paper tomorrow will be fair; that means rain sure," says the cynical dear public, and the dear public laughs and congratulates itself on being witty. But the joke is as ancient as Mount Ararat. You will remember that Noah's prediction of rain was treated with the same lack of respect.

But this story is no discussion of the merits or demerits of weather men in general. It deals with one particular prognosticator, by name Hiram Lake. As has been said, nobody had faith in him; that is, nobody except Julia Collins, and even she was beginning to weaken.

Julia had lived all her life in Wesley except for the time spent in boarding school, and, having finished her course in that institution, she had come home and settled down, ready to get married—when some suitable, marriageable man should happen along.

There was Jacob Hanaford, whose father owned a twine factory and had tied up more than his share of wealth with his product. Jacob was "willin'" where Julia was concerned, but there were things about him she didn't like. Hiram happened along, and he seemed to suit in every particular until he lost caste by his professional record.

Wesley had just been designated weather headquarters for that part of the state and the government sent Hiram to reside at the prophesying. He met Julia and a romance started to bud—until she suddenly discovered he had become the joke of the town, and her friends, by means of derision and sarcasm, began to undermine her regard for Hiram.

Julia struggled against this, but the friends persisted, aided and abetted by Jacob, and she weakened. Jacob was invited to all the parties, and nobody would have anything to do with Hiram; and the young woman enjoyed parties. So the rich man's son finally worked his way into her favor to some extent, although the weather man still called occasionally—when there was no social activity to require her attention.

Wesley folk were very exacting. The grocer who mixed sand in sugar was ostracized, as was the dairyman who put water in milk—that is, more than a reasonable amount. A jeweler who sold paste for diamonds would

could not make an exception in the case of a prophet who had it rain when he promised sunshine. Hiram scanned his daily reports with meticulous care and made his deductions with scrupulous caution, but when a low pressure area seemed headed for certain in the direction of Wesley and he predicted a storm on the strength of it, mild weather was inevitable.

The Sunday of the big picnic hike dawned as fair as the most hopeful could wish, and when the walking club stopped for Julia every member was in high spirits. Still, Julia insisted on taking an umbrella until they laughed her out of the idea.

"Rain?" said Jacob. "Why, look at that sky—clear as a bell."

"But," Julia faltered, "the paper last night predicted rain for today." The uproar produced by this remark made her feel very sheepish, while Jacob's exuberance prompted him to a witty remark to the effect that the prediction of rain was a positive assurance of continued sunshine. Julia was downcast on her own account as well as Hiram's. She just couldn't help having some faith in her weather man, because—because—well, she did care for him, even though he was the joke of the town.

But she went without the umbrella. Out on a country road, through the woods, turning green under the breath of spring, the hikers hiked, carrying lunch baskets and creating sharp appetites for their contents. Their blood was warmed by the spirit of the season and they made merry.

Lunch was eaten at the edge of the woods far from any habitation, with the sun shining brightly. But while the dishes were being gathered into the baskets preparatory to returning a black cloud unfurled from the West and spread across the hitherto blue sky. In the heavens thunder began and flashes of lightning became more frequent as time passed.

The party looked askance at the sky and worried frowns crept across their faces, although a smile mingled with the troubled look on Julia's countenance.

"They will scoff at my weather man, will they?" she said to herself and felt a sense of satisfaction.

Suddenly, without further preliminaries, the black cloud split and a torrent descended, sheets of rain cutting through the branches of the trees under which the party sought safety.

Jacob Hanaford assumed leadership and led the way to a ledge under which a miniature cave had been formed. The opening served as a shelter, but not as an adequate one, because waves of water were beaten in on the huddled group by a fierce wind that suddenly developed.

"Just a cloudburst," said Jacob reassuringly. "It'll be all over in a minute and the sun will be shining as if nothing had happened."

To exclude the beating rain the young men of the party hung their coats across the mouth of the cave,

stringing them on some pieces of twine, which was part of the lunch equipment and which they knotted together, using their hands to keep the garments taut.

But the rain did not subside; instead, it seemed to gather strength, and before long the gray darkness of twilight began to mingle with the blackness of the storm.

The girls became peevish, and Julia's attitude toward Jacob became conspicuously cold.

"If you had let me bring an umbrella, perhaps I would be able to keep my promise and accompany mother to church this evening. I would rather miss forty picnics than disappoint her. You know," she added impressively, "the paper last night predicted rain for today."

And this time nobody laughed, although some may have wondered just how much use an umbrella would be in such a downpour.

For two hours, at least, the marooned picnickers stood huddled in the prison, before an automobile was observed working its way along the muddy road, headed toward the town. As it approached it developed into a diver coupe. It was the first car that had passed that way, for the road was unfrequented.

Julia looked over the coat barrier and scrutinized the auto, which looked somewhat familiar. Suddenly she waved her hand and the machine came to a stop in front of the cave. A man stepped out and approached the cave, holding an umbrella over him.

"Hello!" he called.

"Hello, Hiram!" Julia responded. "How are the chances for a free ride?" He stopped at the mouth of the shelter.

"Fine—for you. But I couldn't possibly take anybody else. You see, my coupe is full of luggage. I've been on a business trip to Creston. Come on, Julia."

She accompanied him to the car, and as she entered she smiled maliciously at the group in the cave. Soon she and Hiram were wending their splashy way along the road.

Little was said for several minutes, then Hiram spoke.

"Julia, I've quit my job at the weather bureau and am going to work for an umbrella factory in Creston. This is one of their samples. It looks like a good proposition, and I—I wonder—how about marrying me now?"

"I'm willing," she said, "especially since you made good with Saturday's prediction of rain."

Hiram cleared the water from the windshield, opened his mouth to speak, but held his tongue.

"Guess I better not confess I was away Saturday and my assistant in the weather bureau made the forecast of rain for today," he told himself.

HAVE GOOD TIME ON SUNDAY

Anything From Drinking Condensed Milk to Sanginary Dueling "Goes" in Costa Rica.

On Sunday in Costa Rica the whole family visits the nearest village to put in a gala day. Perhaps there is a religious festival in the morning; at any rate, there is a mass to be attended. Afternoon is given over to visits, which women and children usually make alone, while the man of the house hangs around the general store or postoffice, as the center of interest. If he is feeling "flush," he treats himself to a can of evaporated milk, a great luxury, which he drains off through a nail hole, just as if it were champagne.

Too frequently, however, he unearths a jug of moonshiners' liquor, a violent beverage, which is manufactured in many huts in spite of the activity of government revenue agents. If there is any of this stuff in circulation, he usually ends the day by indulging in a machete duel with his best friend, and both principals spend the night in the jail, which even the smallest villages maintain for such eventualities. The duelists awake good friends the next morning, but unfit for work for another day or two.

Bullfighting is rare in the republic; the only ring, I believe, is in the capital, and that is seldom used. Cock-fighting flourishes to a certain extent, but not so much as in the more northern republics. Lotteries are popular.

—Paul B. Popenoe in the National Geographic Magazine.

Popular Old Greek Phrase.

Thespiis, the reputed inventor of Greek tragedy, had his own troubles in getting his contemporaries used to his ways. He was a singer of vintage songs, all of which concerned themselves with the praise of Bacchus, the Grecian god of wine.

When Thespiis conceived his broader dramatic idea, he began to intersperse his drinking couplets with epic recitations; and on one occasion an impatient auditor interrupted him with the derisive exclamation: "What has that to do with Bacchus?"

The phrase became popular and can be found in many versions in the Greek classics.

From Uniforms to Cab Linings.

Things, like persons, Paris Figaro philosophizes, suffer strange turns of fate.

Expecting the World war to last a long time, the American administration contracted for enormous quantities of cloth for soldiers' uniforms.

But, happily, the war came to a more speedy end than had been anticipated. In consequence, great quantities of the fabric which was to have clothed the gallant doughboys were thrown upon the market and were purchased by a French concern—for lining for the taxicabs of Paris!

Such is the fate of cloth which had almost attained glory.

HIGHEST PRICES FOR MARKET HAY

Farmers' Bulletin Discusses Merits of Co.-ignment and Straight-Sales Methods.

MANY DETAILS ARE EXPLAINED

Shipper Must Consider Conditions and Determine Which Course Is Most Advantageous—Simple Rules to Keep in Mind.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The merits of the consignment method and the straight-sales method of marketing hay are discussed in Farmers' Bulletin 1265, Business Methods of Marketing Hay, by G. A. Collier, recently issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. In addition, chapters are devoted to trade rules, when and where to sell hay, billing and invoicing shipments, and loss and damage claims. Explanations are given therein for some of the principal trade terms and suggestions are offered as to how the various aids to marketing may be applied by the producer or shipper.

Two Methods Explained.

The consignment method consists in shipping to brokers or commission merchants, who act as the shipper's representative in selling his hay on the market. By the straight-sales method the shipper sells his hay at a fixed price, either at the point of shipment or point of destination at a certain specified time. The shipper must consider conditions and decide which method is the more advantageous to use, for the method that may be advantageous one week may be not at all profitable the next.

It is important to know the preferences of the various markets, for it is the buyer's preference that prevails. In general, New England and Eastern markets prefer large five or six-wire bales weighing from 175 to 215 pounds. Southeastern, Southern, and Southwestern markets prefer small two or



Hay Loader in Operation.

three-wire bales weighing from 75 to 100 pounds, and ranging in size from 14 by 16 inches to 17 by 22 inches by about 36 to 48 inches in length. In the Central Western markets the 17 by 22-inch bale is probably the most generally used, and on the Pacific Coast both this size and the large bale prevail almost exclusively.

To avoid differences between buyer and seller it is suggested that a few simple rules be kept in mind. The seller should state clearly all necessary factors, including quality and quantity of hay, time at or within which shipment can be made, routing, rates, price, and terms of payment. All sales should be confirmed by letter, stating all terms included in the original offer. When confirmation is received from the buyer any items that appear incorrect should be corrected immediately. Since much of such business is transacted by telephone or telegraph brevity is necessary, but a few extra words will often save much trouble and money. Sample telegrams covering various conditions are given in the bulletin.

Best Time to Market.

The time of marketing makes a great deal of difference in the price received for hay. Statistics compiled by the department and tabulated in this publication show that for a period of ten years ending in 1921 the highest average prices at two large markets were reached in April for prairie and alfalfa hay, and in May for timothy. The months of highest price are just before the new crop begins to come on the market.

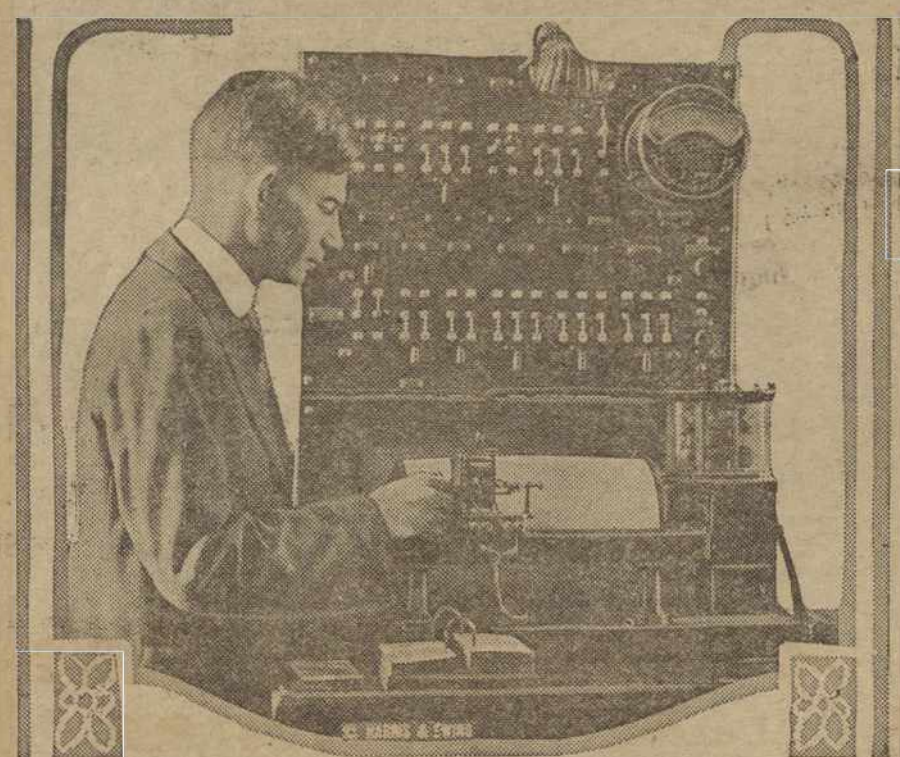
Hay producers and shippers, says the bulletin, should secure all the information possible bearing on the marketing of hay. They may keep well informed by watching the reports prepared periodically by the Department of Agriculture. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained by addressing the department at Washington, D. C.

BET TOP SILAGE FOR EWES

Material Will Increase Flow of Milk at Lambing Time—Gradually Increase Feeding.

Beet top silage will increase the flow of milk of ewes at lambing time. It is best to start feeding only about one pound per head daily and gradually to increase the quantity to three pounds per day. The udder may become feverish if this caution is not observed.

Keeping Exact Tab on Father Time



Three master clocks, buried underground to maintain constant temperature, keep tab on Father Time at the Naval Observatory in Washington. The chronograph shown in this photograph records the time signals as they are sent out by radio to all parts of the United States.