

## OPTIMISTIC SIGNS FOR FARM PRICES DESPITE DOWN TREND IN PRICES IN MAY AND APRIL

PORTLAND, Ore., May 31.—(AP) Although the trend of farm and commodity prices as well as general business conditions was downward or unchanged between April 15 and May 15, there is some reason for cheerfulness if a normal reaction follows an ease in the New York money market, the bureau of agricultural economics, United States department of agriculture, reported in an analysis of the national price situation for May.

Cheaper money in the New York market, the bureau said, is influencing other sections of the country and this usually leads to a cheapening of commercial credit and facilities an improvement in business.

There is little prospect to indicate that the buying power of consumers during the next month or two will be materially different from that at present, the analysis showed. Improvement, however, will take place as business gradually reacts to low interest rates and to other factors that help stimulate business generally.

The bureau's report on the farm and commodity price situation for May was as follows:  
**WHEAT PRICES**—The general level of farm prices advanced slightly between March 15 and April 15 as a result of higher prices for most items except wool and livestock. Since then both crop and livestock prices have again declined, except cotton, and the general average of farm prices during the first half of May was lower than on April 15. The present low level of farm prices may be compared with the low levels reached in the preceding years, namely in June, 1921, May, 1924 and April, 1927.

**GENERAL COMMODITY PRICE LEVEL**—The trend in commodity prices in general was downward during April and the first half of May. Prices on May 6 were at the lowest level since 1916. Six of the eight groups of commodity prices covered by the report averaged lower in the first week of May than during March and April, the exceptions being building material prices which were unchanged for several weeks.

**WHEAT**—The foreign demand for wheat continues poor but some improvement is probable in the next few months. Crop conditions to date do not indicate any material reductions in production as occurred in Canada last year. The carryover in the United States will be large but stocks on hand July 1 in foreign countries are likely to be smaller, especially in Argentina. With small stocks in Argentina, conditions will probably result in exportations of United States wheat early in the season being larger than last year. May 1 conditions indicated that the hard winter wheat crop may be about five and one half per cent less than a year ago, and stock of old wheat remaining in the southwest are only moderate. The average price during the first week of May was 99 cents.

**POTATOES**—The average farm price of potatoes for the country as a whole at 116.1 cents per bushel was 9 cents higher on April 15 than on March 15 and 91 cents higher than in April last year. The advance was general but was great in the North Atlantic states and the east north central states than in the western markets.

**EGGS**—Egg prices usually advance in May and June but the advance this year may not be very material. Receipts will probably continue as heavy as last year; storage stocks are high; the season demand for hatching and breaking is near an end; and apparent consumption which increases during the first three weeks of April, has dropped off since Easter. Fresh eggs averaged 27.5 cents compared to 29 cents a year before. Following a decline of one cent at the end of April the price has been close to 26 cents during the first ten days of May. Last year the average price for this grade was 32.9 cents in May and June.

**POULTRY**—The farm price of chickens is making its seasonal advance which usually continues until it reaches a seasonal peak during May or June but it is on a lower level than last year. Storage stocks of frozen poultry are large; hatchery reports indicate plentiful supplies this summer and prices of competitive meats continue low and may weaken the demand for poultry. The farm price for chickens on April 15 was 21.1 cents, an advance of 5 cents of the month before. The April price was 2.7 cents below that of April 1929.

**WOOL**—Domestic wool prices held steady for the first three weeks of April then declined again but trade at Boston improved considerably in the second week of May and prices for that week held firm. Prices of foreign wools in bond at Boston have held unchanged, however, except for declines on some medium grades.

(Continued on Page Four)

## New Operators Medford Firestone Station



J. M. SMITH

Experienced in the business over 10 years, J. M. (Jim) Smith is associated with W. P. Watkins in the new management of the Medford Firestone station, announced yesterday.



W. P. WATKINS

Interested with J. M. Smith in service stations at Salem and Eugene, W. P. (Bill) Watkins is also interested with Mr. Smith in the Medford Firestone station, the management of which the two men took over today.

## NEW OPERATORS OF FIRESTONE SERVICE PLANT TAX BOARDS TO END HAPHAZARD TAX ASSESSING

J. M. Smith and W. P. Watkins Take Possession of Local Business Today, and Own Similar Institutions in Eugene, Salem.

Every Building in State to Be Appraised, As Basis—Will Take Five Years to Do Work in Multnomah County.

Operators of Firestone service stations at Salem and Eugene, J. M. (Jim) Smith and W. P. (Bill) Watkins have added a third station to their string by the purchase of the Medford Firestone business from Theodore Freeman and are to take actual possession today. Negotiations for the change in management had been underway for a short time. Either Mr. Watkins or Mr. Smith will make his home in Medford to be in charge. The station is located on South Riverdale avenue.

These men have been in the auto service business for the past 11 years and for sometime were established in Salem. A short time ago the partners felt the urge to expand and took over the management of the Eugene Firestone station, operating it in the same method which made their Eugene business successful. They plan to operate the Medford station in a similar manner. The two men are enthusiastic over prospects in the Medford area which they gave a careful survey before deciding to enter the field.

The personnel of the station will be made up of local men, all experienced in their particular departments, and include the same employees who have been connected with the station since its establishment last year. Rod Waters is station manager; Joe Attenford, office manager; Jack Rice, brake testing department; Fred Underwood, lubrication manager and wheel aligning; Merrill Smiley, tire repair department; William Daily, salesman. A man is to be added to take charge of the battery and electrical department and an experienced man is expected to arrive today to be in charge of the car washing department.

With these different departments, the motorist will be afforded an entire one-stop service station, with the exception of engine overhauling and chassis work. The latest equipment is used in each department. The tire and vulcanizing division is regarded as one of the best of its kind on the coast. Tires are repaired in the Firestone "factory way." In the case of an injured casing, the same tread is replaced on the tire, regardless of make, instead of the usual smooth rubber. The ordinary method is entirely eliminated.

The lubrication department offers the motorist the latest devices for those grease jobs, using different weights and types of greases according to the type of car. The department features greasing for high pressure fittings, gears, transmission—through work for every part of the car. A special grease for water pump fittings is also offered.

A Firestone-Cowdrey dynamic brake tester is an attractive feature for motorists and makes it an easy matter to test car brakes, measuring the braking efficiency of each wheel. Modern equipment is installed throughout the battery and electrical department, is in a position to take care of all makes of batteries, generators and starting motors. The Firestone batteries will be carried in stock.

Skilled help is used in the car washing end of the business and included in the equipment is a water booster gun, raising the pressure from the hydrant to 500 pounds, tearing loose every possible bit of grease and grit, especially from high pressure fittings to place them in proper condition for lubrication. The steam wash is also used.

The gas and oil department boasts of the same pumps to sell eight different brands of oil. The gasoline island has no posts or other obstructions before it can be reached from the street and is in a large motor court. The tire stock room is of sufficient size to take care of a carload of tires, carrying all sizes.

It is the plan of the new managers to offer a true one-stop service station and to complete the station, a smelting department will also be a feature. Messrs. Smith and Watkins extend a general invitation to motorists to allow them to show just what advantages their type of station has to offer. During the opening week, all men visitors will receive a Firestone ash tray and ladies will be presented with a Firestone dust cloth.

SALEM, Ore., May 31.—(AP) Acting under authority of an act of the 1929 legislature, which created a full time state tax commission, the state tax office has launched a program to get away from the present assessment system, which is termed, "haphazard" and to make an actual appraisal of all property in the state.

The object is to standardize assessments and equalize taxes. As a basis for this an official of the state or the county will make a personal inspection and appraisal of every building in the state. Similarly all land and other classes of property will be appraised. The state has already been made in Multnomah, Clackamas, Clatsop, Jackson, Klamath and Wasco counties. It is admitted that completion of the task will require some years. The Multnomah county appraisal of buildings alone will take five years. When this basic appraisal has been completed all future appraisals will be simple. Charles V. Galloway, tax commissioner, said.

The state tax officials will work through the county assessors. The plan is for a representative of the state office to start the county men on the work, dropping back into the counties at intervals to check on the operation. For guidance in the appraisal of buildings, particularly residences, a manual has been prepared. By following it is claimed that the valuations placed by different assessors on the same building or type of building will show only slight variance. In this manner the present discrepancies in valuations will be avoided.

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## MONEY BACK IN 41 COMPLAINTS REALTY DEALS

Real Estate Commission Acts On Claims—942 Licenses Issued First Four Months of Year to Portland Firms.

SALEM, Ore., May 31.—(AP) During 1929 the state real estate commission returned to persons claiming to be injured in real estate transactions a total of \$8,255.93, according to a report issued by Clarence Lee, commissioner. These resulted from 123 investigations of complaints in which 41 proved damages.

During the year one application for a license to deal with real estate was denied. Five licenses were cancelled and one was suspended. A total of 1359 brokers licenses, 58 corporation licenses, 194 co-partner licenses, 458 licenses for salesmen and 59 branch licenses were issued during the year, the total fees being \$15,051.19. Disbursements for the year were \$8,862.35.

During the first four months of this year a total of 842 licenses to operate real estate were issued.

to Portland persons or concerns. Among other towns in the state licensees were issued to Klamath Falls, 75; Eugene 87; Medford 65 and others from one to eighteen.

## K. P. GRAND LODGE CONVENES IN JUNE

WALLA WALLA, Wash., May 31.—(AP) Knights of Pythias grand lodge officers from Washington, Oregon and Idaho will convene in Walla Walla June 7 for an annual meeting. At least 500 members of the order are expected in the city for the event.

Debate teams from lodges at Kellogg, Idaho and Portland are coming here to hold a contest in the conferring of the rank of knight. The Kellogg team is champion drill team of Idaho while Ivanhoe lodge, Portland holds the same rank in Oregon.

Columbia lodge, No. 8, Walla Walla which is sponsoring the competition, will present a silver loving cup to the winning team. A committee on arrangements, including J. W. Cookerly, M. A. York, E. S. Renfro and G. A. Tolton is now working on the program.

**Autumn Color for Spring**  
NEW YORK.—(AP)—Autumn shades are spring favorites in flowered chiffon evening and dinner frocks. Flimsy chiffons of lemon and tangerine are worn after sundown with short little jackets of brown chiffon velvet.

## SALMON BAKE FISH FRY PLANNED FOR STATE SPORTSMEN

ROSEBURG, Ore., May 31.—(AP) The annual salmon bake and trap shoot, sponsored by the Douglas County Sportsmen's and Game Protective association will be held at the club grounds near Roseburg, Sunday June 1.

Plans are being made this year to feed at least 3000 guests and invitations have been sent to every club in the state.

Fifty or more chinook salmon will be barbecued and a free dinner will be provided by the club for everyone present.

There will be an all day trap shoot in which valuable cash and merchandise prizes will be awarded.

The annual salmon bake was started 19 years ago by the Roseburg club and has grown to large proportions in the past few years.

## CREAM PUFFS TURNED INTO 'BUN' IS CLAIM

LOS ANGELES, May 31.—(AP)—Johnny Hines, film comedian, will face a jury trial June 25 in municipal court on charges of being drunk in an automobile. He pleaded not guilty today.

The actor, said his attorney, Henry M. Willis, will blame cream puffs in his defense. Hines was arrested Thursday with a woman companion, who police said, fell down as she left the car. Hines offered the explanation that they had eaten cream puffs which disagreed with them, and that their illness was interpreted as liquor intoxication.

Dairy cows increased 1,000 in four years in Idaho, according to the United States extension service.

## NEWSPAPER BY RADIO WILL FEATURE MEET

NEW YORK, May 31.—(AP)—The Evening World today announced that during the three days of the Radio Manufacturers' Association convention at Atlantic City next week, the newspaper will furnish a regular news service to the convention hall, sending full size pages of complete editions by radio.

Special news bulletins, market reports and pictures also will be radioed between editions. The reproductions of the newspaper pages will be printed in purple ink on glossy white paper.

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