

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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1940 Starts Out Well

At the end of each year businessmen have a habit of taking inventory of their prospects for the new year, as well as taking stock of their tangible goods on hand.

It's just good business for ALL of us to do that so that we may know where we stand, and have a general idea of what we may expect for the coming year. Looking at statistics and economic facts, and taking into consideration politics, the war and other factors which will affect the future, it appears now that "good times" should be with us again in 1940.

If a general feeling of CONFIDENCE can supplant fear and uncertainty in the minds of the American people. The return of prosperity is impossible without this confidence!

We must THINK in terms of prosperity if we are to achieve it—that goes for the nation, and for the Rogue River Valley, as well.

LET us take a brief glimpse into the crystal and see just what these prospects are for the coming year that seem so reassuring.

According to the Alexander Hamilton institute, 2,000,000 persons have found employment during the past year. Although the ranks of unemployed were not reduced in the same degree because of the addition of new unemployables, the number of jobless DID drop about a million and one-half in 1939—that indicates progress in the solution of our unemployment problem.

Optimism is reflected also in predictions made by the National Association of Credit Men, spokesmen for large numbers of manufacturers, bankers and wholesalers. It believes that the political campaign will be too short to have any major effect on business; it sees America's participation in the European wars even less likely than before.

DESPITE present crop surpluses, income from agriculture should increase 10 per cent. War activity may increase it even more. Generally, the farmer may expect a better year in 1940.

Even the normal lull in January seems not to be as acute as usual. Railroad and building industries are standing up well. During the past year the Southern Pacific Company alone expended \$2,000,000 for light-weight, modern passenger cars; purchased 50 new locomotives at a cost of \$8,000,000 and spent another \$4,000,000 for new track.

There was a 37 per cent increase in U. S. home building last year and the anticipated volume for 1940 will exceed 1929 levels, according to an authoritative article in the annual statistical review number of American Builder. Jackson county has a definite stake in the building industry!

WITH 3,710,000 motor vehicles sold in this country during 1939, the automobile industry set a production gain record of 40 per cent over the preceding year. There is every indication that the progress in this industry will continue this year.

There will be higher payrolls generally in 1940 and this will be reflected in more jobs for currently unemployed. It is expected that new efforts will be made to consolidate the CIO and AFL in the interest of labor harmony.

Because of their present lag behind earnings, securities should reach a healthier condition in 1940, according to economic "dopesters."

More widespread use of abundant credit, with abnormally low rates, should have the effect of revitalizing general business.

BUSINESSMEN generally are realistic people. If the picture is dark, they can be depended upon not to misforecast it. Thus, with businessmen more hopeful, their confidence should spread quickly.

It looks as though we are now on the right track. Business graphs for 1940 should look a lot better.

THE highly satisfactory last-minute Christmas business in Medford and Jackson county has put business men HERE in a far better frame of mind.

We have just smashed all previous sales records in fruit gift boxes and even greater gains in this new industry may be expected for the present year.

The manufacture of lumber should proceed without interruption because of the nation-wide building program. Because of this the "Owen Oregon" corporation has not closed down for the usual winter recess. Public construction in the U. S. for 1939 amounted to 2.8 billion dollars, and there is every indication that it will be exceeded this year. Jackson county's sizable payrolls in this industry will be an important part of our income again in 1940.

California people, who make up the major portion of our summer-season vacationing guests, have already seen the Golden Gate Exposition. There is good reason to expect an increased number of them here this year—and the tourist industry is most important to southern Oregon's prosperity.

AND so it goes. We might go on and on, taking this inventory of 1940 prospects. One thing is certain. An honest appraisal of local conditions and future expectations should dispel pessimism and discourage hereabouts, and justify a renewed spirit of good cheer and optimism.—H. G.

Ex-Publisher Dies: Walla Walla, Jan. 11.—(P)—Dempster W. Hitt, 62, former publisher of the Walla Walla Union, died last night, two days after he had suffered a stroke. Funeral services will be held Saturday.

Fish Storage Up: Washington, Jan. 11.—(P)—The fisheries bureau said today cold storage holdings of fishery products December 15 totaled 92,717,589 pounds, compared with 90,711,313 pounds the corresponding day a year ago.

Personal Health Service

By William Brady, M. D.

Signed letters pertain to personal health and hygiene, not to disease diagnosis or treatment, will be answered by Dr. Brady if a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Letters should be brief and written in ink. Owing to the large numbers of letters received only a few can be answered. No reply can be made to queries not conforming to instructions. Address Dr. William Brady, 265 El Camino, Beverly Hills, Calif.

SO YOU HAVE TROUBLE WITH STATIC?

Fortunately when I was a boy in Canadaigua the physics class, under Professor William Bennett, by dint of brisk friction, on rare days in the school year, contrived to get up enough static to produce a faint snap, shock or discharge on contact with a door knob, light fixture or another body. Otherwise I would dismiss all the complaints I receive about the body being full of electricity as crackpot fancies.



Here is a fair example of the sort of thing: Dear Doc Brady: (The lady saves herself from a C rating by the period.) I have a problem for you what is a problem. While employed as a telephone operator my body has become so charged with electricity that at times it is impossible to touch anything—even a frying pan or a bar of soap.

I can cause more static on a radio than any weather conditions we have here. In short, anything I touch produces a shock which, although not too bad, nevertheless has become very annoying.

I blame the (telephone company) for my jolts, but perhaps I'm wrong. Have you anything to offer as to cause, or, what is more important, a cure?

Sincerely, (Signature typed) Westward ho on a bright day toward the end of October we paused in Albuquerque. Well up toward the roof of the hotel there I experienced the shock of my life. I swear a spark jumped at me when I tried to turn on or off a lamp. Ma'am I was indignant. The matter must be attended to at once. It was intolerable. I would have it out of somebody's hide. I leaped to the telephone to lodge a protest with the management, and dad blast if the telephone didn't give me another and harder shock, which felt like a deliberate crack on the knuckles. What the inarticulate sputtering blast! The place was a trap—just then came an outcry from the bathroom—had my first wife along—and she, too, had suffered a shock when she tried to turn on the shower.

But that time it had dawned on me that the trouble was not that the electric system had gone haywire but that we had developed static.

The experience reminded me of an implied or expressed wish of many readers of early articles in which I pointed out that there is no such malady as "rheumatism"—some readers who purported to have it pre-

Indeed, the senate leaders want still further. Senators Barkley and Pittman are reported to have stated they were surprised they had heard nothing on the subject from the White House, but imagined that the president would get around to it in time. The leadership of the house, where the bill should originate, is understood to want to avoid the issue. But the house is not only more responsive to the president's requests; it is also likely to be influenced by sentiment in the senate, within whose natural province fall questions of foreign relations.

That it is plain that the president has it in his power to help the Finns if he chooses to give the word. Bills for this purpose have already been independently introduced in both house and senate, by Representative Frank E. Hook and Senator Prentiss Brown, both of Michigan. They only lack the administration imprimatur, or, if they are not found suitable, other bills can be introduced tomorrow.

Furthermore, a perfectly good precedent already exists for lending to the Finnish government. Last year, after a long struggle, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. obtained the president's approval for an export-import bank loan of \$25,000,000 to the Chinese.

The Chinese were just as much at war then as the Finns are now. Arrangements were made for amortization in shipments of tung oil, but some sort of satisfactory arrangement for amortization of the Finnish loan could also be made.

Financing through the export-import bank is at present not available to the Finns, not because the bank's cupboard is pretty bare and because its directorate has taken the position that the bank will make no loans for arms purchases.

But a direct \$60,000,000 loan to the Finnish government, without strings attached, such as is proposed by the state department, for the president, the difficulty is that the president and the congressional leadership are playing a game of "after you, Alphonse."

Every one of these men is convinced that a Finnish loan bill would pass the senate without serious opposition, unless the extreme isolationists should suddenly change their present tune. Only three days ago, at an important conference, senate leaders of both parties agreed that all that was now required was for the president to give the go signal.

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In The Day's News

By Frank Jenkins

THE Hatfields and the McCoys, Kentucky and West Virginia feudist families, decided last year to play basketball instead of "laywaging" each other, according to time-honored feudist custom. The McCoys won, 37-35, and NO SHOOTING followed.

This year they've decided to do it again.

QUESTION: If the Hatfields and the McCoys can work off their rivalry complexes in a peaceful basketball game, why can't the nations of Europe do likewise?

The inherited hatreds of Europe can't be any more bitter than the inherited hatreds of the mountain feud country.

HERE is the answer to the question just asked: The Hatfields and the McCoys have no diplomats and no foreign policies, and so it is possible for common sense and ordinary human decency to gain a foothold among them.

ITALY is urging Hungary to make some sort of peaceful settlement of the troubles arising out of Rumania's getting Transylvania (former Hungarian province).

The explanation of this peace-making is that Italy is preparing a united Balkan front against the time when Russia feels herself strong enough to go after the Dardanelles, which Russia has always desired.

PETER the Great talked longingly of a Russian "window to the west"—meaning the Scandinavian peninsula. Peter and all his successors kept their eyes fixed on Constantinople, but (thanks largely to Britain) failed to get it.

Stalin, Bolshevist despot, is walking in the footsteps of the czarist despots who preceded him. His attack on Finland (temporarily, at least, a flop) is a drive toward Peter the Great's window to the west.

His next step (if he isn't stopped decisively in the meantime) will be a drive on Constantinople (now Istanbul) and the strategic straits that lead from the Black sea to the Mediterranean.

MUSSOLINI, who is far from dumb, knows what is in the wind, and is organizing the Balkans to meet the expected Russian drive for the traditional Russian objective to the south.

Realizing (because he is smart) that a house divided against itself must fall, he is trying to patch up Balkan feuds.

Should be Citizens or Exiles To the Editor: Dan Webster said: "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

Our country cannot afford to exchange the Bible for Communism. One or the other has to go. There is no room in U. S. A. for both. It seems to me that we are allowing our country to become a paradise for foreigners with ill-minded propaganda against us, instead of a country where true Americanism and Americans have and own their homes, where we live.

We should let foreigners know that they can't come here and run our country, nor be the head or ruler over any organization and individual. If they want to live in our country and be sheltered under the protecting wings of U. S. A., they should be compelled to become citizens if they possess wholesome characters with clean records, who will be some law abiding beings within our government.

But only first class folks should be admitted. The rest deported. If we have no laws to do this let us make one that has teeth in it. We Americans must not allow any foreigner to reign and rule in anything over us.

Carl H. Eric, Medford.

Iceberg Sinks Ship Copenhagen, Jan. 11.—(P)—The German steamer Bahia Blanca, 8,500 tons, was wrecked and presumably sunk after striking an iceberg off the coast of Iceland last night. Marine authorities said today. The crew of 62 was reported rescued by the Iceland trawler Hafstein.

National Capitol WITH John W. Kelly

(Continued from Page One)

statistics showing how the export market for Pacific Northwest fruit has been materially reduced since the treaties with European countries.

Lumbermen of the Coos Bay area (Homer Bunker) of Columbia and Willamette river (Frank Ransome, H. B. VanDuzer, etc.); Colonel Greeley, representing the lumber industry of the two northwest states, have come in person or used the long distance telephone, adding their versions of what the treaties are doing to the forest products. Individual stockmen have sent briefs, as have mining men, and also onion growers and prune growers.

PROTESTS against the treaties are now coming in from organized labor, the contention being that the trade agreement program is a stab in the back of the wage-hour law, inasmuch as the minimum wage of 30 cents an hour is required for goods in interstate commerce, but not even that minimum is paid in many of the countries which are and will be shipping articles into the United States under the agreements. Summed up, it is the old union opposition to competing with foreign cheap labor.

Official representative of the National Grange is assuring congressmen the influence of that organization is against extension of the act.

So far grain growers of the inland empire have not been vocal. The soft white wheat of Oregon and Washington continues to be exported under the plan of Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, who has ceased exports of wheat from other regions.

IT adds up that opposition to the trade agreements is because the treaties permit foreign countries to send to the United States commodities of which this country already has embarrassing surpluses and work against the plan of the Triple A. It is not a partisan issue but may become one in the presidential campaign.

WHITE House salaries (except for the head man and his six secretaries), are not exciting. There are six maids who receive \$80 a month; two cooks at \$90 a month; one at \$110 and a chef at \$133. The valet of the president is paid \$105 a month; one butler rates \$135 and his two assistants \$116 each, and two lesser butlers \$105. The two men who wash the president's automobile (also those of house guests), draw \$100 a month, and the chauffeur receives \$124 for his responsibility.

White House laundry bill is \$400 a month (\$4800 a year), for the mistress of the executive mansion does not do her own washing and hang it to dry in the east room as one first lady did. To keep the mansion supplied with fresh flowers costs \$2820 a year. Heat and light cost \$11,200 a year (and the bath-rooms are chilly. Repairs to furniture—senators have their dignity when the spindle-legged chairs collapsed—runs to \$450,000.

Mr. Roosevelt plans junketing around and asks \$30,000, which is a few thousand more than Administrator Raver, of Bonneville, asks, but the president's item also includes entertaining, which Raver's does not.

For letterheads and envelopes the president's budget proposes \$2400, which is \$700 higher than the current fiscal year.

None of the maids, butlers, cooks, gardeners, washers, etc., carry a social security number. Being government employees they are not covered by that act.

HUNGER DOWNFALL OF 'FRISCO SLAYER

San Francisco, Jan. 11.—(P)—Hunger jailed Raymond W. Mugford, sought since Saturday for the slaying of his 67-year-old aunt and benefactor.

Mugford asked a former employer, William Potter, for food and a chance to shave. While he shaved, Mrs. Potter telephoned police.

Booked on a murder charge, he told police his aunt, Mrs. Louise Mugford Brewer, "would have got me if I hadn't got her." She helped gain his release from an asylum at Ukiah two months ago.

Mrs. Brewer was stabbed with a butcher knife, beaten with a baseball bat and left dying in her home, where she had cared for her nephew.

GENERAL WHITE GOES TO ARMY MANEUVERS

Salem, Jan. 11.—(P)—General George A. White, commanding general of the 41st national guard division, left here today for Fort Lewis, Wash., where he will assemble a group of his brigade commanders and staff officers who will accompany him on army transports leaving Puget Sound Saturday for the joint army-navy maneuvers off California.

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