

American Business Activity Remains Firm In First Four Weeks Of 1950

Washington, Jan. 31—(U.P.)—American business activity today confirmed the optimism of most economists by remaining firm during the first four weeks of 1950.

What happens in the next four or eight weeks will depend largely on the outcome of several labor disputes—notably coal.

Several government agencies report that since January 1 industrial production, retail sales and financial developments either held their own or showed continued recovery from the mild recession of 1949.

Highest Mark

The federal reserve board's industrial production index for

December reached its highest mark since April, 1949, and continued to rise in January. It showed that several industries are producing more now than they were a year ago.

The board also said that money in circulation continued to decrease, indicating that hoarding is down with the money flowing back into banks.

According to the commerce department, steel production rose steadily during the first three weeks of January. Output went up from 1923 per cent of the 1935-39 average at the end of December to 202.9 per cent in the week ending January 21.

The reserve board said scheduled production of steel ingots during January is 94 per cent of capacity. This was 3 1/2 per cent more than last year.

The dollar value of department store sales, while remaining steady in the week ending January 21 compared with a year ago, did not reflect lower prices which helped the consumer.

Retail Prices Down

The labor department said that retail prices were 2.3 per cent lower at the end of 1949 than they were 12 months before.

Textile production, the reserve board said, was 10 per cent ahead of a year ago. Textiles were among the hardest hit in the early stages of production cutbacks during 1949, but were among the first to recover.

Other industries which showed higher production at the beginning of 1950 were lumber, meat-packing, construction and paper-board.

The index covering all non-durable goods production was up fractionally from a year ago, but durable goods manufacturing still was lagging.

Gold Hill

Gold Hill, Jan. 31—Roland Bell was a business visitor in Gold Hill last week and stayed at the home of his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Bell. He returned January 27 to his home in Pasadena, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Barker and family have moved into the Leonard Andrews house on Fifth avenue. They formerly lived in Talent.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baldwin of Los Angeles and Mrs. Jane McCallum and Mrs. Vera Van Lydegraf, of Reno, Nev., called at the home of Mrs. Minnie Byerly on January 26 as they returned to their homes after being in Portland several days.

They were called there by the death of their mother, Mrs. Ida Baldwin. Her funeral was held on January 25. Mrs. Baldwin was a sister of Mrs. Minnie Byerly.

Mrs. Dave Ennis has gone to California to spend some time. Miss Laurene Kell will take over duties at the S.R. Milling Co. when the mill resumes operations.

Now there's a can-stretcher to simplify thinning and coloring of paints. A metal extender fits into a gallon paint can, reports The American Magazine, and not only adds an extra one-third capacity but allows freedom of manipulation without spilling or the need of double mixing.

Dead line on Classified Ads: 5:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. Monday, noon Saturday for Sunday a.m.

Tax Committees Discuss Plans For Fair Valuation

Gold Hill, Jan. 31—A meeting of the tax assessment protest committee was held at the city hall here on January 27 with the chairman, Mrs. D. H. Stewart, presiding. The committees were from Central Point, Rogue River, Blackwell Hill and Gold Hill.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for achieving fair and equalized valuation of property within each town or district represented.

All agreed that the principal objective was the matter of bringing the valuations of country property in their school districts and the rest of the county to the point where they would be in line with valuations recently placed on property in the above mentioned localities.

Increases Cited

Central Point, Gold Hill, Rogue River (exclusive of public utilities property) showed increases in assessed valuation over last year of 76, 50.4 and 43.9 per cent, respectively. An increase in valuation of the entire remainder of their respective school districts showed an increase of less than half these percentages.

The taxable valuation of all Jackson county was increased only 10 per cent of last year, it was pointed out by committee members who argued that the statistics seemed to prove that Central Point, Gold Hill and Rogue River and Blackwell Hill had been increased far more than their fair share.

Plan Adopted

A general plan was agreed upon for achieving equalization of valuations and the committees decided they would be ready to meet with the members of the state tax commission at any time after February 15.

Harry J. Logan, supervising appraisal engineer of state tax commissions was to be notified to that effect by Stewart.

Committees present were chairman, Stanley Jones, Arden Pinkham, Gene Waterman and other members from Central Point; Douglas Buckle and others from Rogue River; Earl Kelley of Blackwell Hill and chairman, Mrs. Stewart, Leon Wise, R. E. Bowden and A. A. Walker of Gold Hill.

Bond Redemptions Exceed Purchases

Bond sales in Jackson county in 1949 failed to keep pace with redemptions, it was revealed today in a report from George W. Minnaugh, state director of the treasury's savings bond division.

Sales for the year totaled \$1,223,739 but redemptions during the same period amounted to \$1,510,702. The same case held true in 1948 when Jackson county residents bought \$1,389,343 worth of bonds and cashed in \$1,573,141 worth.

San Francisco, Jan. 31—(U.P.)—The Coastwise lines freighter Joel Chandler Harris was damaged yesterday when she was hit on her port side by another freighter which wandered off course in a thick San Francisco bay fog.

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On the Side—By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Lord, living here are we,
As fast united yet,
As when our hands and hearts
by These
Together first were knit.
And in a thankful song,
Now sing we will Thy praise
For that Thou dost as well pro-
vide
Our loving as our days. —Wither
(Wedding Anniversary Hymn)

In Manhattan the other day it was May in January. And I mean the last of May. I put on my light coat in the morning and had to discard that after walking a block. This might be a beautiful day to some people, but I don't care for this kind of weather at this time. Give me January in January and May in May. If it keeps on being May here in February I am going to fly up to Montreal or some other place where they are sleigh riding, skiing and ice skating and stay there until it really is May.

Please Note

While it is generally believed the far west produces the tallest and huskiest men in this country, the records of both World War I and World War II reveal that the tallest and huskiest men in the United States armed forces came from Michigan. No wonder Michigan has so many football "wonder teams."

Among The Married

Only 32 per cent of married women are married to the man they loved most. When the average woman finds she cannot marry the man who is uppermost in her mind she is inclined to view the situation philosophically. She then marries whom she can and follows the immortal advice of Bussy-Rabutin, a n a m e l y:

"When we can't get what we love, we must love what we get."

Asking

Queries from clients: Q. I claim the first feminine western film star was Texas Guinan, who was

called as "The Two-Gun Girl." Right? A. Wrong, sir. First woman to star in the "horse opera" type of film was Louise Lester, who portrayed a character known as "Calamity Ann" in a series of westerns made long before Texas Guinan's bow as a film star.

Passing By

Mickey Walker, erstwhile ringman known as "The Toy Bulldog." One of Mickey's minor engagements entertained me almost as much as his important bouts. That was when he met a heavyweight named Arthur De Kuh. This DeKuh was about 6 feet 4 inches tall and he outweighed Walker about sixty pounds. But in the first minute of the first round the Toy Bulldog reached up and knocked De Kuh. This DeKuh was about pancake. An outstanding example of the old saying: "The bigger they are, the harder they fall."

Gypsy Markoff. Talented night spot entertainer. At the time Gypsy miraculously escaped with her life in that air disaster in Lisbon she was wearing a St. Christopher's medal. As you know, St. Christopher is the patron saint of travelers.

Horses And Women

"The feminine brain is clever and resourceful. The greater the cleverness, the less it is suspected." Such is the wise observation made by Howard D. Stewart. Reminds me of the advice my Uncle Al gave me the day I graduated from high school. Said he: "Edgar, no matter how dumb, how innocent, how naive, how unsophisticated a woman appears when you first meet her, always assume she is smarter than you are." I always have. Incidentally, take these young women who write in to me to ask: "What are the chances of a successful marriage between a Capricorn man and a Sagittarius woman?" Do

Education Board Approves Buildings

Portland, Ore., Jan. 31—(U.P.)—The building committee of the Oregon state board of higher education today approved construction of three buildings on three Oregon college campuses at a total cost of nearly \$2,000,000.

Plans were approved for a

you think they really believe in astrology? Certainly they don't. They want to get me to print the answer so they can playfully show it to the man on their mind and thus turn his thoughts toward proposing matrimony. Yes, sir, women are smart people.

Very few women know how to boil potatoes properly. That's because they harbor the erroneous belief that boiling a potato the right way is a simple matter. Said Charles Dickens: "In boiling a potato the profoundest chemical laws are involved."

Dickens was so much interested in the proper boiling of potatoes he once wrote an article on the subject.

Man Denies Right To Life Insurance Policy

Tarzana, Cal., Jan. 31—(U.P.)—Martin Oscar Olson, 85, insisted today he wasn't entitled to \$50,000 from an insurance company.

A report from Vancouver, B. C., said Olson was being sought by an insurance company to pay him the money on a \$20,000 policy he took out 50 years ago.

"It isn't mine," Olson said. "I did buy a policy in 1893 or 1894 but it was only for \$105.

\$1,500,000 science building at University of Oregon, a \$250,000 library at Oregon College of Education at Monmouth, and a \$200,000 library-museum at Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande.

The committee also approved a tentative location near the present University of Oregon medical school for a 350-bed teaching hospital. Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge of Silverton, committee chairman, said the board had about \$2,000,000 on hand for the hospital and hoped to acquire additional funds. Plans for the proposed six-story building have not been drawn.

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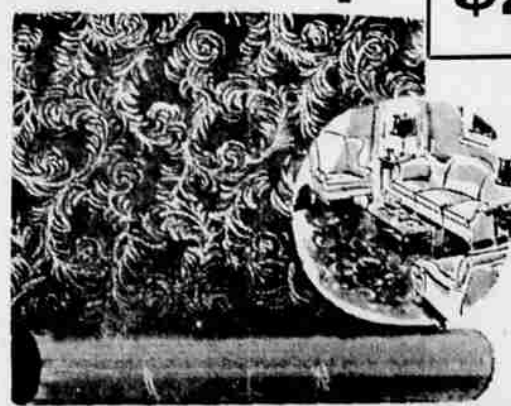
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Still Some Left! January Clearance On BROADLOOM CARPET!

Axminister—Freize and Wilton Carved!

Our January Clearance on Broadloom carpeting was a huge success—but there are still some roll-ends and small sizes left in fine patterns and shades—enough for rugs or wall-to-wall carpeting for small rooms. Remember! Indications point to carpet price increases THIS MONTH!

GATES FURNITURE MEDFORD GRANTS PASS