

BETTER OUTLOOK FOR BUSINESS

CONDITIONS IMPROVE GREATLY IN SEPTEMBER—FEDERAL RESERVE TELLS OF INVESTIGATIONS MADE IN ALMOST EVERY SECTION OF COUNTRY

Washington, Oct. 1.—American business conditions improved broadly during September, in the view of the federal reserve board, which made public tonight a distinctly optimistic review of conditions for the month. Important changes for the better were seen in the credit situation, "distinct encouragement" in many basic business lines and strong liquidation indicating increased ability of business to settle its accounts.

The "wholesome improvement," which the board's correspondents found in almost every section appeared to have been based largely on the advance in cotton prices. As a result of the higher cotton values liquidation has taken place and wholesale and retail trade has been buoyed up, the report said.

Marked improvement in the credit situation was cited by the review as the noteworthy feature of business during the month, the board declaring that "taken all in all, from a financial standpoint the month has been in the main a period of distinct encouragement."

The board noted only a slight increase in the number of unemployed. This was likely to be offset by a growth in demand for labor on the part of manufacturing industries.

"Railroads have begun to increase the number of their employees to some extent, especially in the far West," the review continued, "and the fact that building contracts have reached a record figure for this year promises partial employment in that service during the autumn."

There has been a steady and reasonably heavy movement of agricultural products to distributing and export centers, the board reported. Prices of most of these have advanced to an extent, although a drop in live stock quotations was seen attributed to local marketing conditions.

Textile manufacturing has been well sustained during the month, the board's agents said, adding that the boot and shoe industry had been "notably active."

Some hesitancy still was noted on the part of the distributors to place large orders but offset this, large seasonal increases in certain lines of wholesale trades were reported, coupled with orders for stock replacement.

Improvement also was seen in the amount of cargo offered for shipment to foreign ports. The available tonnage was said to remain, however, greatly in excess of requirements, with the result that ocean freight rates continued substantially unchanged.

Washington, Oct. 1.—Business conditions in South America were marked during September by steps towards a recovery which were regarded as having the earmarks of permanency, according to advices to the department of commerce made public tonight.

As an important feature in the improvement agents of the department cited practically complete withdrawal of the large amount of general merchandise which had accumulated in customs houses. Slight improvement in exchange conditions also had a bearing on the situation. Although labor unrest was reported as a disturbing factor in some localities, the department summary viewed the situation so hopefully as to suggest that North American export houses "could make valuable use of their time by strengthening their export organizations."

The statement adds that the exporters should be ready to handle "efficiently the business which they may properly expect" from South America.

German competition was said to be at work in Argentina, forcing lower prices. Fewer salesmen from North America also were said to be in evidence and little foreign investment capital entering the country. Greater stocks of exportable commodities were reported on hand than a year ago while exports of hides

PLANS ADOPTED TO FIGHT WEEVIL

THREE-FOURTHS OF ALL OPEN LANDS TO BE DEVOTED TO CROPS AND PASTURE—ONE-FOURTH TO BE PLANTED IN COTTON.

Columbia, Sept. 30.—R. C. Hamer, president of the South Carolina Division of the American Cotton Association, said yesterday he had read with a great deal of interest of the action of the committee which met in Columbia to consider an agricultural program which would meet the conditions caused by the invasion of the boll weevil and said that the cotton association would be delighted to have the support of the committee.

"The American Cotton Association," said Mr. Hamer, "has for some time been giving most earnest consideration to the conditions confronting the cotton belt because of the weevil and how it could best be met. Two plans which were thought to be the most suitable and most feasible were submitted to a referendum of the members of the American Cotton Association. Every farmer was asked to vote for the plan which he thought the most feasible and which could most effectively be carried out. Great interest was taken in the referendum and approximately 60,000 votes were cast.

"The plan adopted by an overwhelming vote follows:

"First, Three fourths of all open lands to be devoted to food and feed crops and to pasturage for live stock.

"Second, One-fourth of the cultivated land to be planted in cotton, well fertilized and worked so as to produce the best yield under the most economic conditions of labor and other expenses.

"Third, Encourage the rapid organization state-wide cooperative marketing association for handling cotton and other farm products.

"Fourth," Adopt economic reforms and efficiency in the future baling, warehousing, financing and marketing in the cotton crop upon the most approved and advantageous modern method of orderly marketing.

"The South Carolina Division of the American Cotton Association, of course, committed to this plan and will make every effort within its power to put it across in South Carolina. We are already pushing with all of the vigor at our command the campaign for the formation of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association. We plan to begin shortly a food and foodstuffs campaign and we shall make every effort within our power to have the farmers plant only one-fourth of their cultivated lands in cotton next spring in order that the cotton may be intensively cultivated and the ravages of the boll weevil reduced to a minimum.

"We propose to devote most of the time of the annual meeting of the South Carolina Cotton Association in December to a discussion of the boll weevil and it is our hope to have the foremost experts of the country with us at that time to tell us how cotton can be best grown under weevil conditions.

"The American Cotton Association at its annual meeting in Birmingham October 26-29 will discuss plans for putting the program into effect over the belt generally.

"We ask the united support of the people of the state in our campaign. Surely this is a time when the people of the state must stand together and meet the menace which confronts us."

COLUMBIA'S NEW POSTOFFICE OPENED

Columbia, Oct. 1.—The Columbia postoffice was thrown open to the public this morning at the usual opening hour and presented a very busy scene during the entire morning. The big lobby, which is a delight to the eye, was well filled with patrons and a long line wags formed to secure boxes for the coming quarter.

and wool to Germany were increasing. Lower prices for all raw products, however, were predicted.

ACCIDENTS COSTING BILLION

That's Estimate of Safety Council Secretary for Twelve Months.

Washington, Sept. 29.—More than one billion dollars a year is the toll exacted by industrial accidents in the United States!

That's the estimate of Sidney J. Williams, secretary of the National Safety Council.

Williams bases his findings on a thorough investigation of industrial accidents in 1919.

There were 8,000,000 industrial accidents in that year.

The fatal accidents, Williams estimates, resulted in the loss of 6,000 working days each, making a total of 138,000,000 working days.

Temporary disabilities are estimated to have caused the loss of 50,000,000 days.

Permanent disabilities caused loss of 115,000,000 working days.

That makes a total of 296,000,000 working days—the total time toll of 1919 industrial accidents.

Williams estimates the average daily wage of the workmen injured at \$4. That gives those 296,000,000 lost days a wage value of \$1,184,000,000.

But all that isn't lost. The 23,000 men who lost their lives didn't have to pay for food and lodgings. That was "saved" That represents \$331,000,000.

Subtracting that leaves a total of \$853,000,000 wage loss.

Besides that, accidents led to expense in doctor and hospital bills. These amounted to \$161,000,000.

That gives a total of \$1,014,000,000 as the cost of 1919 industrial accidents.

Expensive Business.

A red-headed boy applied for a job in a butcher-shop. "How much will you give me?"

"Three dollars a week; but what can you do to make yourself useful around a butcher-shop?"

"Anything."

"Well, be specific. Can you dress a chicken?"

"Not on three dollars a week," said the boy.—O. E. R. Bulletin.

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