Business The Enterprise Weather

P. F. B.

COTTON FOR THE WORLD

BABSON PARK, MASS. (Special.) World consumption of United States cotton in the season ending July 31, 1927 was 17,438,000 bales. This compares with about 15,000,000 last yea,r and about 14,000,000 and 11,000,000 bales two and three years ago, respectively. Yet, in spite of this increased consumption, the price trend of cotton for the past five years has been steadily downward.

The acreage planted to cotton this year is estimated at 42,683,000, which is a reduction of 12.4 per cent from last year's record planting. Conditions for the crop have been fairly good during the last few weeks, but the cool, wet weather in some sections has been of help to the boll weevil. Official estimates of the size of the crop haev not yet appeared, but private estimates place it around 14,600,000 bales.

The world carry-over of American cotton on August 1, 1927, has been estimated at 7,238,000 bales which, although higher than last year, is not excessive if the present rate of consumption continues.

In view of the increasing world consumption, the probable smaller crop, with the reasonable carry-over the cotton farmers should receive a very fair price for this year's crop.

EGG REDUCTION INEFFICIENT

The hen is evidently spending her energy in cackling to attract the world's attention to the fact that she has laid an egg rather than in spending her energy in increasing her production.

At any rate, the egg production per hen is exceedingly low, amounting to only 56 eggs per year. Under the direction of the colleges of agriculture there have been carried on tests with demonstration farms which show it is easily possible to have flocks able to produce an average of 135 eggs per hen, or much more than double the present production.

If this were done throughout the United States, we could dispense with 239,000,000 hens, and still maintain the present production of eggs. During this elimination there would be enough chicken pie for all.

WAR ON CORN BORER

A real war has been started against a real enemy—and the enemy this time is the corn borer. According to the United States Department of Agriculture the $10,000,000 campaign to delay the spread of the European corn borer to the Corn Belt, recently authorized by Congress, began last March.

The Department is working in cooperation with the five states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana where most of the infested area of some 60,000,000 acres is located.

This appropriation of $10,000,000 will be used to compensate farmers for work done by them in connection with the clean-up not normal or usual farm operations, together with the purchase of the machinery and equipment necessary for thoroughly carrying out control measures. If this work can be carried out thoroughly on this appropriation it surely will be one of the best investments the Government has made.

FARM VALUES LESS

From a recent survey of farm values it was found that taking the country as a whole, values have decreased 30 per cent from the high in 1920. There has been some decline in every section of the country, but, as one would naturally expect the most severe declines have been in those sections where farm lands were the highest.

The greatest declines have been in the Pacific States which also went to the greatest heights in 1920. The least change has been in the New England States, which had only a slight increase during the speculative years up to 1920. Next to the New England states come the Middle Atlantic and cotton states where the decrease in values is around 20 per cent.

These might be good figures to show the local and state tax assessors.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

Cold storage holdings of meats, lard, butter and eggs have been increasing during recent months. The storage supplies of some meats, poultry and dairy products are substantially above the average for this time of year. The exceptions are the storage supplies of beef, and lamb and mutton which are somewhat less than they were a year ago.

STORAGE STOCKS BOTHER POULTRYMEN

BABSON PARK, MASS. (Special.) There is, at this writing, a good deal—possibly too much—stored poultry and eggs to suit even the most easy going of poultrymen. During June, for example, the holdings of frozen eggs were more than double the amount of last year. June of last year, too, was the heaviest on record.

As the Department of Agriculture has warned, this branch of the egg industry has been growing steadily and rapidly for a number of years while the increase this season seems to be especially marked.

The price trend of poultry products this year has taken a sharp downward slump. Over the past 5 1-2 years 1925 saw the peak price. There was a slight drop during 1926 in the prices received for poultry products, and then has come the figure this year so far that is lower than even in 1922.

But for all of this, poultry on the farm is gowing in popularity. By this is meant poultry raised under more business-like methods in comparison with the former barn-yard fowl that was quite likely to lay its eggs anywhere and everywhere.

POTATOES UP AND LAMBS DOWN

In the wholesale markets of late, two notable changes in farm products prices have occurred.

Prices for Potatoes have declined to low levels because of the favorable deports from the late producing states. The lowest prices for the year are usually reached during August, and apparently a number of people believe that the accumulation of supplies against future requirements is practicable at this time.

Lamb prives are now considerably below the high point of this Spring and may hold fairly steady during the next month. On the other hand, it is pointed out by some authorities that he possibiliy of heavy receipts of native lambs during September and October make it inadvisable to purchase at this period beyond near requirements as lower prices during the next three or four months appear probable.

DIFFERENCES AMONG BANKS

In the agricultural sections of the West and South, the numerous bank failures of the past two years have still left many banks burdened with frozen assets. In each sections of of the country, therefore, the banking and other credit conditions are much more in harmony than elsewhere.

Chiefly in the Northeast, many banks are burdened with loanable funds for which it is utterly impossible to find commercial employment at remunerative rates. Yet, on the other hand, commercial collections are slow generally, even in the same Northeast.

SALESMEN WATCHING CROPS

The crop outlook at this season is the dominating factor in the sales outlook for most of the states:

From present indications, the cash income of farmers during the 1927 crop season may be expected to average about equal to last year, but with rather wide variation as between states.

The largest gains over 1926 are probable in the northern wheat belt states, which have prospects of a large crop in the face of higher wheat prices; and in the southern corn states.

The corn crop in the southern states is assuming more importance than usual this year, because of the relatively large crop in prospect in this section; this is in contrast with the unusually late and small crop expected in the great middle western corn-belt—a factor which will result in higher returns for those few areas fortunate enough to produce at least a normal crop.

CORN REPORT EAGERLY AWAITED

There will shortly be a Government report, in which we shall get a better idea of the situation as regards corn. As it is now, doubt is heard on all sides as to whether or not much more than 2,000,000,000 bushels will be raised at best.

There is still plenty of old corn still at large, but one notes an optimistic price attitude everywhere for corn this season. It is hard for one to catch up to a far advanced season and a late crop—as is the case with corn this year.

This season, city people in the East have found corn-on-the-cob an expensive article to buy. Out in the big middle-western fields where the country is fed from, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are on the poorer side of the corn picture this year with South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas showing increases in their corn crop.

Dr. Frank Crane Says

Human Factor Wealth Of Nation

People who pile up billion-dollar fortunes in the steel business, in banking, in automobiles and otherwise are supposed to be the greatest adders to the wealth of the country.

Some years ago, however, John Ruskin wrote about "The Veins of Wealth," in an article in which he held that the true wealth of the nation consisted not in the yellow veins of gold running through the earth, but in the blue veins of human blood.

In other words, men are worth more to a country than natural resources.

Had the Pilgrim fathers, who landed on the bleak shores of New England some years ago landed in Manilla, the Philippines would by this time have been as prosperous as Massachusetts. Take all the Philippines and transfer them to New England and in their stead put New Englanders in the Philippine Islands in a short time New England would be devastated and the Philippines prosperous.

It is men who make the country.

With this in view we consider Senora Esperidiona Chavez, 89 years of age, of Los Angeles, rocking the cradle of her one hundred and sixty-second direct descendent. She has nine daughters and two sons and they are all prolific.

Mrs. Chavez has therefore added to the country more wealth than that of John D. Rockefeller.

Property has to be cared for and property rights to be expected, but the most inestimable treasure of the land is its human beings.

France is supposed to be decadent because the death rate piles up and the birth rate is decreasing. On the contrary, it is faced by prolific Germany with a steadily increasing population.

The most important power in the earth is its out-populating power.

This, in the end, wins more battles than armies or battleships.

The health and vigor of a nation is a better defense to that nation than armies and equipment. No matter how many tools you have, it takes men to use them.

No matter how marvelous and complete is a locomotive, it is valueless without an expert engineer. No matter how good your airplane, you have to have a Lindgergh to make it a success.

In the end, it is always the huban factor, and men do well to conserve life above all other things.

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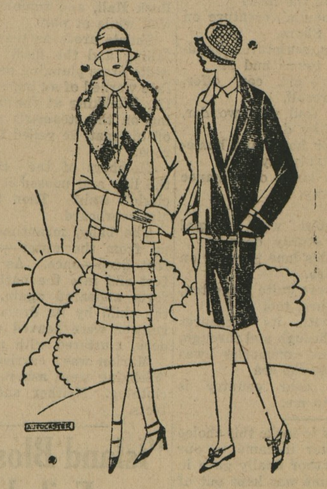

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Feb. 10-tf

In Confidence by Flo

Readers desiring a personal reply can address Miss Flo, in care of this newspaper.

A Tribute—To The Average Woman

Dear Miss Flo:

Won't you please write something about the average woman—the woman who has no desire for a career—the woman whose time is completely taken up with her husband and her children and making a home on a very limited income? My husband is always drawing comparisons—always telling me how clever some other woman is. I'm not envious of those women—and I do think they are wonderful, but I feel that in my own particular sphere I am accomplishing just as much as they. Why can't my husband realize this?

If I had the power to distribute some of the medals for merit, I would give one to the Average Woman. For she is indeed the real heroine of life.

Perhaps she doesn't keep up with politics—she may have to think two or three times before she remembers who the vice-president is. She may not keep up on her reading well, either. She doesn't pretend to. The evening paper is all she has time for—and often she is too weary for that.

She has no desire for a career—she has no thoughts of herself in a business or profession. It's all right for other people to be interested in those things. But she is busy enough, and happy enough, taking care of her home and family.

She is the Average Woman.

And there is nothing unusual in her appearance. She may be good-looking, well dressed and well taken care of. Or she may be plainly dressed, she may have a tired face and work-worn hands—the sort of woman that you meet a hundred times a day without giving her a second glance or a thought.

Years ago, when she was fresh and young, and gay, and light-hearted, she married, and her head was full of dreams. Her husband was always to remain a Prince Charming—and life itself was to be a fairy tale.

But one by one the dreams fell away. The husband was a good man, but he grew indifferent to her before long, as husbands have a way of doing. He ceased to notice when she put on a new dress—he never paid her the compliments for which a woman's soul hungers.

Day after day she cooked and cleaned and mended to make a comfortable home. If the husband was not one of the fortunate few who have the gift of making money it was up to her to see that the wolf was kept away from the door. And women know the worse of poverty. For it is the wife, who has the spending of the insufficient family income who learns all the bitter ways of scrimping and paring and saving. The husband must make a decent appearance for policy's sake, and certain things are necessities for the children, so the heaviest of all the deprivations fall upon the woman.

But she never falters in her self-sacrifice. And in this she is only like the millions of other Average Women who cook and sew and pinch and economize, to do the best they can for their loved ones.

And when the census taker, makes his rounds for official records, he lists her as Mary Smith, wife of John Smith. Occupation—none!

She is the Average Woman. And lucky the man who marries her.

—oo—

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