

U. S. IS BEST OFF OF ALL NATIONS, DECLARES LANE

On Sound Economic Basis, With Plenty of Raw Materials.

IS WORK FOR ALL Trade Outlook for Winter Good, Both Retail and Wholesale.

H. L. C. STILL UNSOLVED

Former Secretary Has First Hand Reports From All Over Country.

Heart of grace is offered to those who conceive that the country is going to the dogs in a report issued yesterday by Franklin K. Lane, formerly Secretary of the Interior, in which he gives the result of statistics gathered from every corner of the United States concerning the industrial, agricultural, financial and political conditions throughout the country.

Mr. Lane gathered his material through the aid of 900 field representatives of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland and sets forth that while the cost of living is still an unsolved problem the country is on a sound economic basis, with the wave of extravagance subsiding. He adds that saving is increasing, that wholesalers and retailers are optimistic over the winter outlook and that there is a growing disposition for steady work, although the individual productivity of labor is not yet showing much evidence of increase.

He says the problem of the cost of living is outstanding and does not seem to be receiving from the two principal political parties the attention it deserves. But he adds that, with the country economically sound the way it is, there is a general spirit of confidence in the future, regardless of the result of the election.

Under the heading of industrial conditions Mr. Lane says:

country in the world. There is no evidence of idleness. Our people have the opportunity to work and are at work. There is no shortage of raw material sufficient to curtail production reported from any of the nine geographical districts into which the country was divided for the purpose of survey. Only in the district including Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin is there evidence of a lack of orders. New England industries report a number of cancellations, but there, as elsewhere, manufacturers are well filled with orders for their products.

Transportation Better.

Transportation conditions are improving everywhere and a substantial reduction in the freight car shortage is reported in every district except in the Rocky Mountain States, in the Southwest and in the district including Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, although an improvement is noted in the latter district.

A shortage of coal and the failure of labor to increase individual productivity appear to be the only two unfavorable aspects in the immediate industrial situation. The Rocky Mountain and Pacific States report a sufficient supply of fuel. All other sections of the country are feeling the shortage, but it is apparently least felt by the South Atlantic States.

Although labor is costing still more than it did last year, it apparently is producing no more. Wages have advanced from 10 to 30 per cent. in the last twelve months and yet nowhere is there reported increase in productivity per man. I am not expecting that the cost of labor will fall off even in the worst of times to its pre-war stage, for I believe that the real differential between directing labor and manual labor will never again be as great as it has been.

So far as the distribution of labor is concerned, the situation nationally appears to be well equalized. A shortage of labor is found only in the Middle and South Atlantic States and this is largely of unskilled workers. In the rest of the country the demand and supply appear balanced. Only in some sections of the Middle Atlantic States is any unemployment reported and this is in certain of the skilled trades, chiefly the building and shipbuilding trades.

Housing Situation.

An important disclosure of the survey is the seriousness of the housing situation. In many of the larger industrial centers where the shortage has been most acute, the investigation of the Fidelity and Deposit Company has disclosed building operations to be decreasing instead of increasing.

The call for buildings comes loudest from the most essential places of manufacture rather than from the retail centers, and is for low priced dwellings. Building construction is increasing in New England, but the bulk of the construction is of factories, warehouses and stores. New York, Pennsylvania and most of the other great industrial States of the East and middle West show a falling off in building operations. There is improvement in the housing situation in Southern and Pacific coast industrial centers, with special emphasis on the erection of workmen's homes.

and everywhere better transportation conditions are reported.

Agriculture is generally recognized as the backbone of the country, and the farming situation is excellent; from no section has an unfavorable report been received. Our farmers appear everywhere to be in too happy a mood to permit at this time the cynicism, the farmer is always grumbling. They are well supplied with funds from the sale of this year's crops, but they are wise in that they know more favorable marketing conditions can be created.

The recent drop in grain prices is reported to have had no effect except in the Rocky Mountain States. Farmers of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and other Central States are withholding grain.

In the financial field money is tight. That may mean several things—first, that the people want money badly; second, that the banks attempt to get whatever the traffic will bear, shearing close to the skin; third, that there is an inadequate supply of money; or, fourth, that those who have money lack confidence.

There are other reasons, no doubt, and among them that as the dollar now buys less than heretofore people with money wish to charge more for the service that money gives. No one can accurately say which of these causes is the most important factor, but probably all contribute to the present situation.

The telegraphic reports from every section of the country state that the banks are well loaned up, although money is available in the East and Central districts at from six to eight per cent. interest. The Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Pacific States report the highest interest rates, averaging from 8 to 10 per cent., and in the Mountain district as high as 12 per cent.

There is great encouragement, however, to be drawn from the fact that in only one of the nine geographical divisions, the Rocky Mountain, has there been a decrease in bank deposits during the last six months. While the general increase includes corporation deposits, individual savings accounts show a more marked improvement everywhere. This seems to show clearly that the orgy of spending and extravagance is over.

Discounting Is General.

Discounting of bills by industrial concerns is universally reported. Except in the Middle Atlantic, Southwestern and Pacific coast States, manufacturers appear to be carrying large amounts of customers' paper.

The country does not like the present taxation system. The excess profits tax is in bad favor everywhere. Opinion is divided, however, as to a substitute in the East and central West sentiment runs strongly for a sales tax, but elsewhere opinion as to a substitute is divided.

We are not yet masters of the art of distribution of products. The fact that the farmers uniformly report a desire for some cooperative method by which their products can be brought to consumers means that this problem is of the greatest importance. But it is not for the farmers' benefit primarily that such a movement must quickly culminate in action. The consumer feels that something between the farmer and himself too much is taken for a service of comparative insignificance in contrast with

that which the producer himself renders.

The farmers apparently are not alone in desiring cooperative action. The survey shows opposition to cooperative movements only in the New England and Pacific coast districts. Sentiment is divided in Ohio, Illinois and the other North Central Western States, but favorable in the Middle Atlantic, the South Central and the Southern States.

Politically the replies indicate that it is too early to tell what the outcome of the November election will be. Three months ago there was a stronger Republican sentiment than there appears to be now. The trend has been, and is, Republican. What it will be in November these gentlemen do not profess.

The large outstanding debt developed by the Fidelity and Deposit Company seems to be that the greatest issue in the public mind is being overlooked in the campaign—the high cost of living. I think this conclusion might well be justified, but the blame should not be cast upon the producer, and certainly the farmer has not received his share of the wealth which he creates.

The cost of living and foreign relations seem to be the main issues. Taxation and industrial relations also occupy a place in the general political thought. Local interest appears to be shown in the railroad policy of the present Administration, radical movements and prohibition.

It is clear that the country is on a sound economic basis, and there is generally a spirit of confidence in the future, regardless of the outcome of the election.

The business outlook appears to be good in every section. Wholesalers and retailers view the fall and winter optimistically. The retailer is finding that the consumer is looking forward without fear to the winter, and his purchases from the wholesaler are founded upon this optimism. From the simple trolley up through the tradesman and the industrial and the financier there runs the connected feeling of confidence.

TENNESSEANS SEEK TO HALT SUFFRAGE

Ask Secretary Colby to Withdraw Proclamation.

Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Tennessee suffrage opponents, headed by Seth Walker, Speaker of the Lower House of the Legislature, to-day saw Secretary of State Colby and asked him to withdraw his proclamation of the Federal Woman Suffrage amendment.

The delegation said it was the firm belief of the members that suffrage had been ratified in Tennessee in violation of the State constitution and the established rules of the legislature. It was believed they got little satisfaction.

The proclamation of the suffrage amendment could be withdrawn now and the suffrage amendment still stand as the law of the land, since Connecticut has ratified. Withdrawal of the proclamation, however, and issuance of a new one would mean that the ratification of a Democratic State would not appear thereon and that a Republican State would be substituted for it. This fact, with legal advice received by Mr. Colby, probably will prevent any further action on his part.

MIDWEST CLINCHED BY REPUBLICANS

Harry Dougherty Says Ohio Will Give Harding Plurality of 80,000.

BANKS ON OTHER STATES

Senator Elkins After Study of Conditions Considers West Virginia Is Safe.

ITALIAN REPUBLICANS REPUDIATE LEAGUE

Also Resentful of Wilson's Treatment of Fiume.

That Harding is certain to carry all the middle Western States was the news brought to Republican National Committee headquarters yesterday from a number of sources.

Harry Dougherty, manager of Harding's pre-convention campaign, who will be here for several days, said that he is certain the Republican nominee will sweep the middle West. In Ohio, he predicted, his plurality will be at least as large as was that of President Wilson, which was more than 80,000. He feels that Indiana is safely Republican and that Kentucky and Missouri also will be found in the Republican column. The Lowden-Thompson rump in Illinois, he declared, has not affected the certainty of the Republican victory there next November for the reason that the national organization has not mixed in the local situation one way or the other and both sides of the factional fight are for Harding.

Commenting on Democratic claims that Gov. Cox is responsible for the workmen's compensation law in Ohio, and, therefore, would get a large vote among the miners, Mr. Dougherty said: "Mr. Cox was not Governor when the workmen's compensation law was passed any more than he was Governor when the Ten Commandments were made."

Davis Elkins, United States Senator from West Virginia, was a visitor at na-

tional Republican headquarters yesterday. He said that a close study of conditions in West Virginia makes it certain that Harding and Coolidge will get the electoral vote of that State by a substantial majority. Senator Elkins is a son of the late Senator Stephen B. Elkins and was elected to the Senate while he was absent from this country, serving in France.

An Eastern office of the Republican Congressional Committee was opened yesterday at Republican National Committee headquarters, with Representative A. B. Houghton of Corning, N. Y., and Representative John Q. Tilson of New Haven, Conn., in charge. The New York office will set as a clearing house for printed information and "dispositive energy" for the campaigns in the Congressional districts in the East. With the opening of this branch the Congressional campaign may be considered in full swing. Representative Simon D. Fess of Ohio is chairman of the Congressional committee, which has offices also in Washington and Chicago.

Aldermen, who was made permanent chairman of the convention. He attacked President Wilson's Italian policy as an address which was received enthusiastically.

"On four specific occasions," La Guardia said, "the President stopped a satisfactory solution of the Fiume problem. The very honor of the United States is at stake in this matter and we have the right to defend the honor of this country."

Regarding the League of Nations he said:

"When we bind ourselves to use military and naval power in a foreign country without the authority of Congress we bind ourselves to do something we cannot do. The hope of this country depends on our party making good. I say with all frankness to Harding that the American people expect him to carry out his promises."

Letters were read from Senator Harding, Gov. Coolidge and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts expressing their regret at not being able to be present.

WOMEN VOTERS NOT FOR COX, SPROUL SAYS

Finds 'Tremendous' Opposition to Wilson Regime.

Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. CHICAGO, Sept. 20.—"The antagonism to the Wilson Administration is tremendous," said Gov. Sproul of Pennsylvania, who is in Chicago to attend the convocation of thirty-third degree Masons. "I have been outside of Pennsylvania in adjoining States for the last six weeks. In New York I have no doubt Miller and Wadsworth will be elected, and Harding will carry the State."

"The women voters are not for Mr. Cox. They don't like his method of approach to the Presidency. On the other hand, they are impressed with Mr. Harding's spirit of humility with which he discusses things vital to the Republic."

"In my own State the Republican registration and enrollment have increased 45 per cent. The Democratic registration and enrollment are almost negligible. West Virginia I find is in good shape."

The Merchant Who Lived On "Some Day" Street

Two manufacturers made competing products and made them well. One said "I'll advertise because I want a great business." The other said "The merit of my goods will sell them for me, tho' I may advertise some day"

The first has now a nation-wide sale. The second, still has a meritorious product, but few buy it. They haven't heard of it.

What street do you live on?

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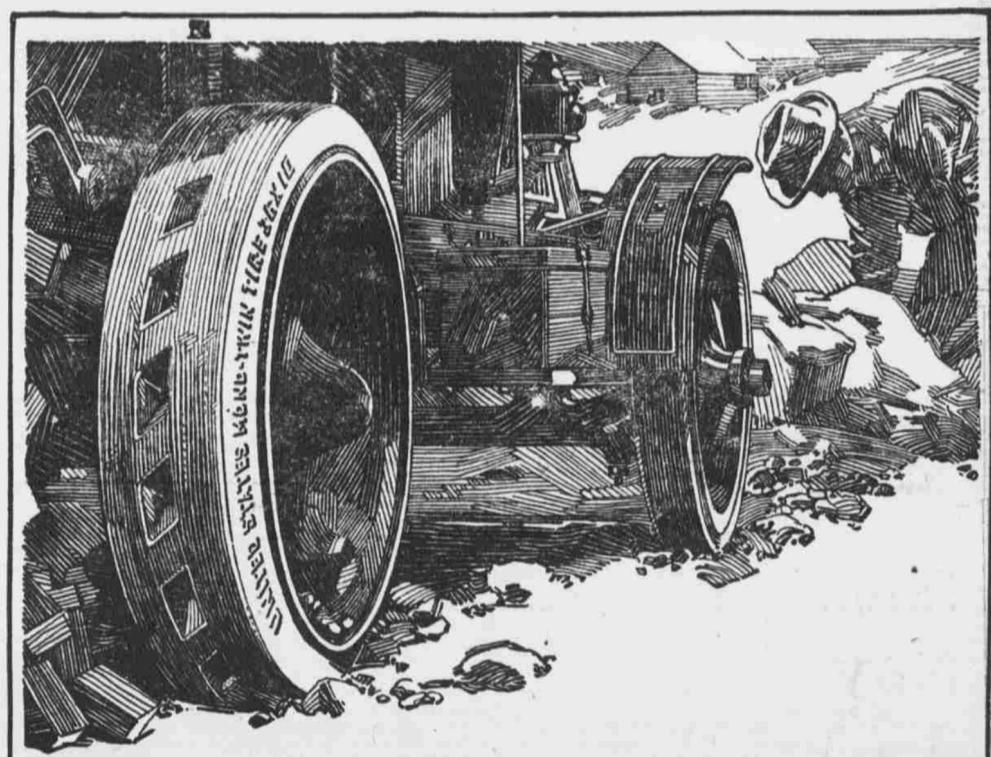
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To the Man who is Interested in Truck Tire Economy

CAREFUL truck owners are figuring their costs pretty closely these days—tire costs along with the others.

It is no longer "clap on a new tire and hang the expense." At least, not with the owners we come in contact with.

Service, wear, traction, cushioning qualities, construction are coming to mean more than they used to, not only to owners but to drivers of motor trucks.

And the more they mean, the more we find truck owners and operators turning to the new United States Grainless Rubber Solid Truck Tire.

The tire that overcomes splitting and base-separation—that goes on its way day after day, month after month, wearing down smoothly and uniformly without undue attention and without expense.

Handling United States Solid Truck Tires in this city is in keeping with the progressive policy of our concern.

Something new—something a little in advance of the times—is always coming out of the United States Rubber Company.

Before ordering a new truck, consult us about the kind of tires to specify.

United States Tires

NEW YORK: M. D. CANCRO, 241 East 136th Street; H. RAY PAIGE & CO., Inc., 1360 Avenue A; SIMONSEN & DENKER, Inc., 561 Washington St.

BROOKLYN: S. & M. LEVY, 35 Grant Square; TRAUTWEIN CORPORATION, 587 Manhattan Ave.; A. JUNGKIND, 302 Flushing Avenue