

THE COST OF LIVING

19 BILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT ANNUALLY IN UNITED STATES.

THE CITY VS. THE COUNTRY

Unequal Distribution of Business Works a Hardship Upon Many, and Retards Growth of Agricultural Towns.

Statistics as to the cost of living are ever interesting to the economist. It is estimated that only 29 per cent. of the people of the United States reside in large cities. It is claimed about \$19,000,000,000 are spent each year by the 86,000,000 people in the union for clothing, food and luxuries. If 71 per cent. reside in rural towns and farming sections, it stands to reason that the percentage of money paid for necessities of life is 71 per cent. of the vast sum of nearly \$19,000,000,000 annually expended. These figures open up a wide field for study of economic conditions.

For sake of illustration, let it be estimated that in the large cities the cost of living is 50 per cent. more than in the country towns and farming districts, which would still leave approximately 60 per cent. of all spent for food and clothes credited to the people living outside the larger cities. Then it is found that the amount rural residents spend annually is \$11,800,000,000. But do the profits on this vast amount of business remain in the rural districts? Do the merchants in those 65,000 country towns receive the patronage of the people who are residents of the districts? A conservative estimate is that one-third of all this vast trade goes to the 415 large cities, wherein reside only 20 per cent. of the population. Were the profits on the trade that belongs properly to the country towns kept within them and within their districts, in the course of a dozen years their wealth would be increased nearly 100 per cent. But the drifting of the business to the large cities not alone makes the country towns poorer and retards their advancement, but necessitates alike drifting of the population of the country toward the thickly populated cities on account of the lack of industries to afford employment. Herein is found the cause of the complaints of students in economic conditions of the tendency of the country-bred youths to drift toward the large cities, and explains the cause. The country residents are the ones to be blamed for such conditions. It is a lack of appreciation of home enterprise, and the desire to trade in the large towns that is the cause.

The sending away of dollars assists the great combinations to control manufacturing, financial affairs, and all lines of industry, and even the trusts are tightening their grips on the farms, controlling the prices of commodities that the farmers must have, and dictating the prices at which he shall sell all his products, as with the destruction of the business of the rural towns, the home market is made poorer, and in fact even before the small town merchant can supply the people living within the town with products that are produced in the immediate neighborhood, the trusts must have their "profit" out of the transaction. Reader, do you know a remedy that can be applied that will give a more equitable distribution of business and of the earnings of the people? Do you not think that the home trade and the building up of home industries plan might bring about the desired results?

D. M. CARR.

Need of Good Schools.

Intelligence is the distinguishing mark between the savage and civilized man. Education is one of the greatest of God's blessings, and ignorance a curse. In America there exists no valid reason why every man, woman and child of normal brain should not have an education. There is no phase of life where knowledge is not necessary. In the most progressive communities is where the superior schools are found. Help along your town and help along education in general. By affording your children a chance for a good education, you offer them riches that cannot be measured by dollars. Because education is capital that cannot be destroyed; it is ready cash in hand, assets that one cannot be robbed of only by an act of Providence.

Is There Not Danger?

Is it poor policy for the farmers and the laborers of the land to help build up less than a dozen large stores situated in great cities to do business of thousands of dollars in country towns. One Chicago concern does a business through the mails of \$60,000,000 a year. Twenty thousand dollars in business is about the average for the country town store. Here we have an example of one concern doing the business of 3,000 small stores. Is there not danger that should these great concerns through their immense business drive the local dealers out of trade that they would become like other great combines, oppressors of the people?

Abuse of Credit.

It is the abuse of the credit system that frequently causes trade to drift from the home town to some distant concern. Merchants extend credits to their customers, and when the bill reaches a large figure, the customer avoids the store of his benefactor, and when goods are needed sends the cash to some distant place. This is unfair, yet it is too often the case.

FACTORS IN TOWN PROGRESS.

Some Comment Affording Thoughtful Folk Food for Reflection.

It is the duty of every merchant to give support to his home paper. When he pays the editor dollars for judicious advertising he is helping himself, helps the editor get out a better paper, and helps the community in general.

Public schools are one of the great props of national government. The more prosperous is a community the higher will be the educational facilities. Good schools are a help to any town and bring into it the most desirable classes, who seek to educate their children. He who assists in building up the business of a town also assists in bettering the schools.

Commercial clubs have been potent factors in the advancement of many towns. To the farmer the commercial clubs are as important as to the man of business. There is no reason why the farmers of the community should not cooperate with the business men in every undertaking that has for its object the benefit of the home town.

The young man starting in life should have a certain object in view. The seeking of a vocation is an important thing. Too many seek lines of work that they are not naturally qualified for. The greatest success is made by the men who follow that business or profession for which they have natural inclination and talent.

Thousands of people are still on earth who can remember the dismal failure of the Ruskin cooperative colony in the south, the falling to pieces of the Belamy community in California, the disintegration of the "Agricultural Wheel" and the hundreds of thousands of dollars lost a day-dreamer in Missouri and Kansas in efforts to demonstrate the practical work of theoretical cooperation. Still people will bite at baits thrown out by the alleged cooperative commercial concerns, who have headquarters in large cities and do business through the mails.

BUILD UP LOCAL ENTERPRISES.

Individual Effort a Factor in the Progress of Cities and Towns.

A well known eastern financier, who for some time was the president of a large trust company, recently resigned, giving as his reason that a man, according to his belief, can do better working for himself, and that no man can really earn a salary equal to what he can make in business for himself. One of the conservative financial papers in commenting upon the move of the financier here referred to says that in these days, when all kinds of business are being converged into stock companies, the number of trades in which a man may engage in business for himself have become so few that for a great bulk of men, even those having the mental equipment which in other years would have been sufficient to make them their own masters, there is now no other opening than that of service for some corporation. For the bulk of the people, outside of those in agricultural pursuits, it is service for the corporation or no work at all. This truth is becoming more evident day by day. Even the farmers are feeling the grasp of corporate methods. It is true that millions must have the products of his lands and his hands, but the corporations are the mediums he must work through, and from him they exact their things. It is to the interest of the farmer as well as the laborer in every walk and sphere to prevent as far as possible further encroachment of organized capital, and this can be done by as far as possible keeping the dollars that you earn in circulation in the community where earned and thus prevent the further concentration of money and of business in the great cities.

Fools and Wise Men.

Some one said that "fools, women and children need to be protected." The author of the phrase seemed to not take into consideration that it is sometimes hard to distinguish between the fool and the wise man. He is wise indeed who does not nibble at the baits on the hooks held out to catch him. How many people, time and time again, find themselves caught on some contract deal, find that some sleek agent has sold them a lot of inferior groceries for twice the amount that they could buy the same quantity of goods from a local dealer, and get a far better quality? Be careful when dealing with strangers. Remember the biggest frauds present the most plausible appearance. Don't sign any kind of a contract or order without the most careful investigation.

Favors Soon Forgotten.

Not many years ago the majority of farmers in newly settled sections were dependent upon the business men and the merchants of the towns to carry them through between crops. There are farmers who can look back a few years ago and see where they were favored when in want of supplies and had not the money to pay for the same. Prosperity changes many, and this may be the cause why those who a dozen years ago were so anxious to see the country develop, now send much of their money to outside places for goods needed, instead of keeping their dollars at home to further enrich their community; and how soon are favors forgotten. The merchants who assisted in making success possible for many by quite a few are passed by. Is this Christian gratitude?

HOWARD TESTIFIES IN POWERS' TRIAL

PRINCIPAL WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE TELLS HIS STORY.

DECLARES HIS INNOCENCE.

He Says He Never Saw Gov. Taylor or Youtsey Before the Murder of Goebel—Capt. Sharp Startles the Court.

Georgetown, Ky. — In the expectation that James Howard, chief witness for the defense, would take the stand, a large crowd was in attendance at the Powers trial Tuesday.

Capt. Stephen G. Sharp, United States district marshal and ex-state treasurer, was an important witness. Sharp startled the court and spectators by stating that three days before Goebel was shot he (Sharp) was given reliable information by prominent democrats that the democrats had ordered 2,000 guns and ammunition for the same, and that men would be on hand to man the guns, and that Taylor and other republican state officials would be forcibly ejected from office. This, he said, was why armed republicans were about the state house and why state troops had been notified to be in readiness to move, as he had communicated these facts to both Gov. Taylor and Adj. Gen. Collier.

James Howard took the stand. He said that at the time Goebel was shot he (Howard) was in the public room of the Board of Trade hotel at Frankfort. A man named Robinson stepped out in front of the hotel and brought back the information that Goebel was shot. Howard and others in the room jumped up and ran to the door, horrified at the news. After the shooting Howard went with others to the Capitol hotel, but he did not see Goebel then. Howard denied that he ever received a letter from Taylor or Youtsey asking him to come to Frankfort. He did not know Taylor and had never seen him.

Howard denied that he was on the state house square at any time during the morning of January 30, when Goebel was shot; said that he was not inside the executive building that morning; that he never saw Gov. Taylor or Youtsey and declared that he had absolutely nothing to do with the assassination.

A FIENDISH CONTRIVANCE.

An Infernal Machine Is Found in Mail at the South Erie, Pa., Postoffice.

Erie, Pa. — While distributing Christmas bundles in the South Erie sub-postoffice Tuesday afternoon an employe became suspicious of a package the end of which had broken open, and upon making an investigation the package was found to contain an infernal machine so constructed that the opening of the box would cause an explosion that would have undoubtedly killed all persons near it and set fire to everything in the vicinity.

The package was addressed to Archie Carr, 2208 Cherry street, and had been mailed in this city. The box was turned over to Postmaster Sobel, who called in Chief of Police Wagner and Detective Pinney. The chief cut out the side of the box and exposed a bottle and contrivances so arranged that the opening of the lid would pull the cork and ignite several matches. The following inscription was on the inside wrapper: "You may perhaps find the cover will catch a little when you open the box, but pay no attention to it. Merry Christmas."

Dr. J. W. Wright, health officer and chemist, after an examination of the bottle said it contained a high explosive, but would give no other details until after a further examination. A postoffice inspector is expected here shortly.

A Lynching in Oklahoma.

Muskogee, Okla. — Riddled with bullets the body of James Garden, a negro, is dangling from a telegraph pole in Henrietta, Okla., a coal mining town 30 miles southwest of here, as the result of the first lynching in the new state. Garden on Tuesday killed Albert Bates, a white man, because Bates, who was a liverman, refused to rent a rig to the negro. Garden said Bates was discriminating against him because of his color and, going across the street for a pistol, Garden returned and killed Bates. Garden was lodged in jail and last night a mob battered down the doors of the jail and secured the negro and hung him to a nearby pole. Then they riddled the body with bullets.

Railroad Construction During 1907.

Chicago, Ill. — According to statistics compiled by the Railway Age, railroad construction in the United States has been nearly as heavy in 1907 as in 1906, which was the heaviest year since 1888. The total number of miles of new track laid this year has been 5,730, of which 422 miles were in Louisiana, 341 in Florida, 385 in South Dakota, 314 in Texas and 311 in Washington. In Canada during the same time 723 miles were built, and in Mexico 349 miles. The orders for cars and locomotives in 1907 were smaller than at any time during the last seven years.

Cars Were Blown from the Track.

Denver, Col. — The baggage car and first passenger coach of train No. 25, northbound on the Colorado & Southern railroad, were blown from the track and overturned in the ditch near Marshall, a coal camp, Tuesday. Six persons were seriously injured.

Many Mills to Resume January 6.

Pittsburg, Pa. — Christmas in Pittsburg and vicinity is made doubly joyful by the announcement that by January 6 all the mills in McKeesport, Glassport, Duquesne and allied plants in the Monongahela valley will be in operation.

CHIEFS OF BUREAUS CLASHED.

SURGEON GENERAL RIXEY ISSUES A STATEMENT.

When Read Between the Lines It Shows the Reason for Admiral Brownson's Resignation.

Washington, D. C.—That a serious breach exists between the bureau of navigation and the bureau of medicine of the navy, involving the question of the responsibility of the latter bureau was made apparent last night in a statement issued by Surgeon General Presley M. Rixey, of the navy, in which he touches upon the circumstances leading up to the probable selection by the president of a medical officer to command the hospital ship Relief over the protest of Rear Admiral Willard H. Brownson, chief of the bureau of navigation, who on Tuesday sent his resignation to the president.

While disclaiming exact knowledge as to the cause of Admiral Brownson's resignation, the surgeon general's statement leaves little room for doubt that the controversy he reviews was a potent factor.

General Rixey maintains that hospital ships, as a rule, always have been commanded by medical officers, with a sailing master and civilian crew for purposes of navigation. This particular vessel, he says, formerly belonged to the army and always was commanded by a medical officer when used as a hospital ship. In attempting to unify the medical services of the army and the navy, he says that a joint army and navy board of medical officers which was convened by executive order more than a year ago recommended that hospital ships should be commanded by medical officers, and that that recommendation was approved by both the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy in general orders.

"The internal administration of the bureau of medicine and surgery," he says, "has been in my opinion too much interfered with by the bureau of navigation. This interference has at times caused grave concern as to how I could meet the needs of those under our care."

The hospital ship Relief, he says, should now be with the battleship fleet on its cruise, but he adds that the bureau of navigation thought otherwise and the fleet of 15,000 men, with its auxiliaries, will be without a hospital ship until it arrives at Magdalena Bay, more than three months from now. He adds that he cannot understand how Admiral Brownson should be specially interested in the officering of hospital ships, as his duties lie in another direction and that he should not interfere in a matter pertaining entirely to the bureau of medicine and surgery.

A TRAGIC VOYAGE IS ENDED.

American Ship Atlas Comes Into Port and Its Crew Tell a Thrilling Story.

San Francisco, Cal.—The American ship Atlas dropped anchor here Tuesday night, 275 days out from Baltimore. It ended a voyage made tragic by a collision off Cape Horn, attended by the sinking of another vessel, the drowning of the fated craft's captain and the captain's wife, mutiny on the decks of the Atlas and death among its crew.

On June 6 at 6 p. m. the Atlas struck the Norwegian bark Viking, Capt. Peterson, bound from Hamburg to Callao. Both were badly damaged by the contact, but the bark fared worst. Thirteen of the crew of the Norwegian bark boarded the American ship, crawling over tangled shrouds and dangling booms, but Capt. Peterson and his wife were not among those who made the dangerous transit, but it was too dark to render aid, though the Atlas stood by during the night, and next morning the Viking had disappeared.

The Atlas put into Rio Janeiro for repairs, leaking badly. On the way to this port a mutiny took place among the crew over some trouble with the mate, but it was easily quelled. Before the collision off Cape Horn three of the ship's company met death. On May 23, J. Schumacher and Charles Nolan, seamen, fell from the jibboom and were drowned. On June 15 John Hook, sailmaker, died and was buried at sea. When the ship arrived here the captain's son and the third officer were ill and the vessel was ordered into quarantine.

A SENATORSHIP FOR W. J. BRYAN.

A Young Floridian Is Thus Honored, Not the Famous Nebraskan.

Jacksonville, Fla. — Gov. Broward on Wednesday appointed William James Bryan, of this city, to be United States senator, vice Stephen Russell Mallory, deceased, for the balance of the term expiring March 4, 1909. Mr. Bryan is a prominent young attorney only 31 years old and now holds the position of county solicitor for this (Duval) county. He was born in Orange county, Fla., October 10, 1876. He is the son of John M. Bryan, who served 14 years as state senator and afterwards as a member of the state railroad commission. Mr. Bryan was reared in the vicinity of his birthplace and attended the local schools. Later he attended Emory college, where he graduated in 1896. Three years later he graduated professionally at Washington and Lee university and at once began to practice law in Jacksonville.

About two months ago Mr. Bryan announced his candidacy for the United States senatorship to succeed Senator Mallory. He is not related to William J. Bryan, of Nebraska.

A Doctor Murdered His Wife.

Hyde Park, Mass. — Dr. Walter R. Amesbury, of Milford, shot and killed his wife Anna, a teacher of music in Roanoke college, Danville, Va., as the family were about to sit down to their Christmas dinner at the home of Mrs. Jeanie Rees, Mrs. Amesbury's mother, here Wednesday.

Killed His Wife and Himself. Sharon, Pa. — William Van Bush slashed his wife's throat with a razor and then cut his own throat at their home here Wednesday. The dead bodies were found by a son-in-law.

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