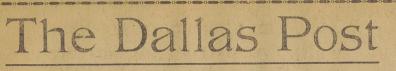
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Established 1891

An independent paper, of the people, devoted to the great farming section of Luzerne and other counties.

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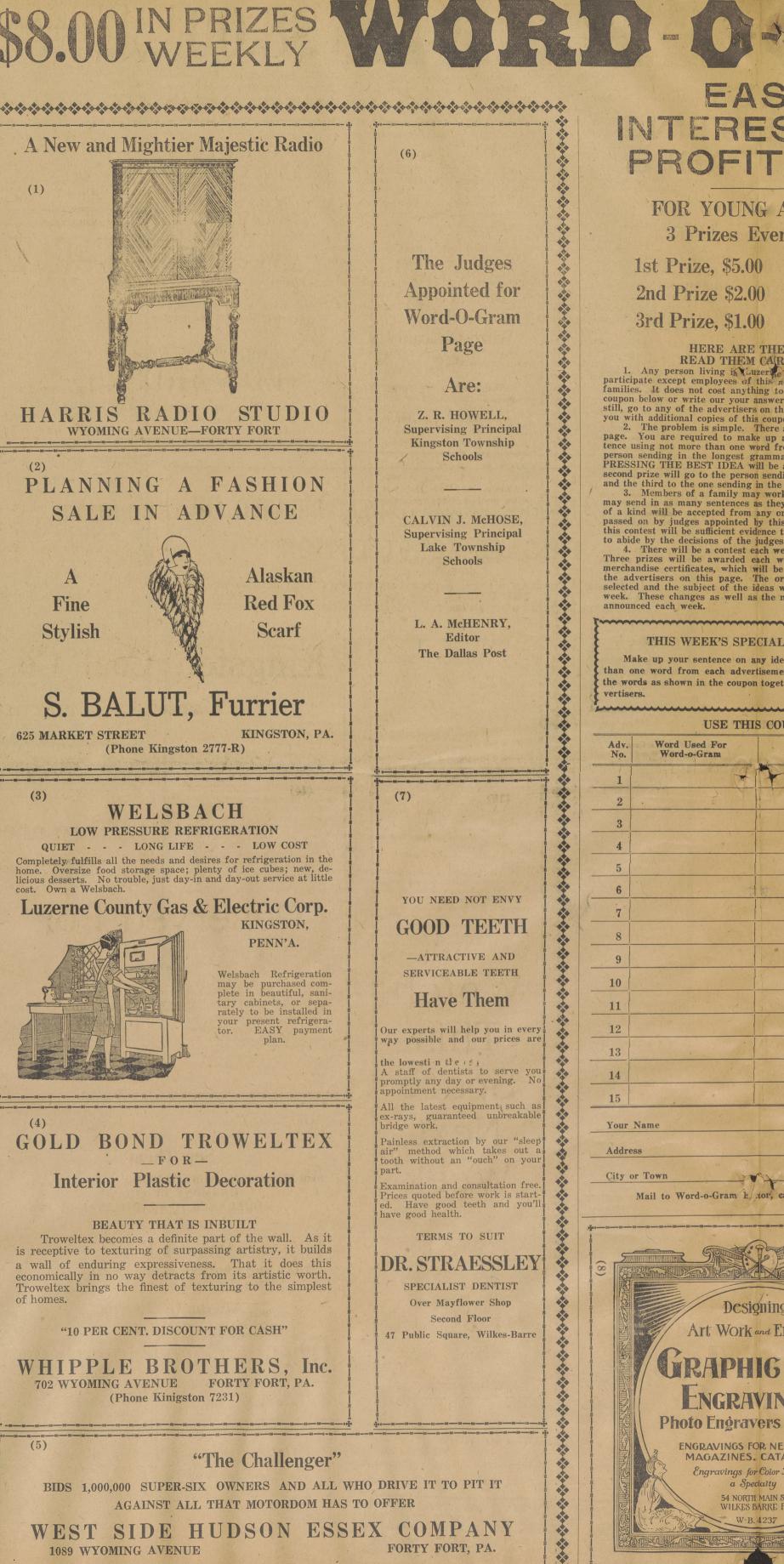
EDITORIAL COLUMN Devoted to the Current Topics of the Day

## **MODERN BANKING**

Banking practices change and improve along with the general march of progress. According to an analysis of small bank accounts on the part of Association of Bankers it has been found that some 80% of the checking accounts carry balances of less than \$100.00 and a further analysis reveals that such accounts of \$100.00 balances are an expense to the respective banks. The profits accruing to these respective banks then are made on less than 20% of the depositors. Thus it is the member banks of the Wilkes-Barre Clearing House are now conducting an educational campaign of the public by direct mail. This educational cam-paign has a two-fold purpose, first to help to cement a better feeling between the individual depositors and his respective bank; second, to directly inform the public of the economy and conven-ience of a checking account but at the same time explain the expense of a checking account from the viewpoint of the bank. Certainly it would be impossible to transact the hugh volume

of daily business by cash. As a matter of fact there would not be enough spot cash to do it, and business would be retarded almost unbelievably if it were compeled to go on a strictly cash bases, with no checks.

The banks are wise then to keep before us the value of the services of a checking account and have every right to expect such services to be at least self-supporting. There is nothing mysterious about a banking institution but there is apparently a mys-tery—possibly we should call it lack of understanding generally about credit; what constitutes it; how to build it and how to preserve it. A banking institution by nature of it's very business knows credit; helps depositors to build it yet guards it constant-ly. Since a banking institution inherently is atwined with cred-it and since the average depositor is the arrowed with all the delicate ramifications which constituted redit, it behooves the re-spective banking institutions individually and collectively to keep constantly informing and educating. And while the public, thru its individual depositors one a burge appreciation to our well on its individual depositors owe a huge appreciation to our well-ordered American Banking System and to the individual banks who Gute this system, these same banking institutions owe it to their respective communities to be leaders in their respective community progress. Encouraging progress always, yet dili-gentiy guiding this progress along safe channels. We believe that since a banking institution has within it's management the custody of the community credit and to a very large degree the community's progress, it owes to the community a full measure of community progressive leadership. We believe there are bank-ing institutions which do not fully appreciate their community leadership responsibility. We believe there are banks here and there which are in the same condition as many other business in-stitutions under capitalized, and being undercapitalized cannot render a full measure of community progressive leadership. When 🐟 a bank opens it's door and becomes the custodian of the community funds, the guardian of the community credit it automatically becomes the leader of the respective community finances and community credit. A very grave responsibility thus rests on the shoulders of a public banking institution. And just as the bank has every right to expect courtesy and consideration for those phases of public services which it administers, so to the public has equal right to expect the individual banking institution to be 💑 progressively alive to it's community leadership responsibilities. So shall we grant to the banks the right to expect us to pay for the services of a checking account but may we also ask of the bank to pay us individual depositors 3% interest on our monthly checking balance on deposit over \$100.00?



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## A SWING TO THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AGAIN

It is predicted that 1929 will show a partial swing back to real estate investment purchases. The stock market has had a full swing of popularity for over eighteen months, attracting both speculative and investment funds. The investment public does not like these recent eratic swings on the part of the stocks. The investor has to become a professional to follow them. He cannot today purchase his stock and slip it in his lock box and forget it. Tomorrow it may have dropped 10 points. There has been many very attractive income producing real estate invest- 🐟 ments these last eighteen months. There are now many attractive real estate investments and there are several contemplated building operations which will be attractive investments.

A real estate investment (not speculation) is composed of two phases, purchases of real estate security, a bond or mortgage with a certain fixed and guaranteed income. Six per cent as a rule on first mortgage and 5 per cent as a rule on first mortgage gold bond. Unlike the majority of the of the popular stocks of today these real estate securities are not watered but on the contrary have even more than the full dollar value because real estate securities are as a rule about 60 per cent real value of the property involved. For this reason real estate securities have always been considered one of the two or three very safest securities possible to purchase. The other field of real estate investment (not speculation) is out right and titled ownership of the real estate itself. In this case there is no guaranteed income although there is an average income which experience proves to be safe. Also there is the work of managing the respective income property. As a rule an investment of this latter type provides a better return on the investment than the real estate security. And it should because there is a trifle of risk altho very small in a careful purchase and there is a considerable more trouble envolved in property management than in just collecting interest on mortgages or interest on real estate bonds.

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