

America World's Richest Nation

Average Wealth of Each Man, Woman and Child is \$3,000 in Actual Property

By Caleb Johnson

We are the richest people in the world.

Almost everybody knows that, but few realize just how rich we are and what our wealth consists of.

The National Industrial Conference Board has just figured it out. The national wealth of the United States is \$360,100,000,000. Three hundred and sixty billion, one hundred million! The figure is just too large for anyone to grasp. Nobody ever saw that much money. There never was any such amount as that in money anywhere in the world at any time.

It would take a whole year for a thousand regiments of a thousand men each, every man collecting a thousand dollars, a day to gather so much money together, even if it existed.

But the figure of the Conference Board leaves out money entirely. Wealth is one thing, money is another. Money is merely a symbol of wealth. Counting all of the Treasury notes, Federal Reserve notes, National Bank notes, gold certificates, silver certificates and gold, silver and copper coins, we have only about five billion dollars of money in circulation in America. That is all we need for the purpose of exchanging one form of wealth for another. The rest of our business is carried on by means of bank checks and credits. But what makes our money worth its face value is the wealth behind it, nearly \$72 of assets back of every dollar in circulation.

There are no very exact figures of the wealth of other nations. The total assets of the entire British Empire, including Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, Australia, South Africa, India and the rest of the British possessions, was estimated a few years ago at about one half of the present American figures, and no other nation begins to compare with ours.

The biggest single item in the list of things which make up our national wealth is real estate. Land and improvements in the United States are valued at \$198,100,000,000, more than half of the total wealth. That does not include real estate owned by railroads and public utilities.

Those institutions, together with shipping and canal facilities, account for another \$4,900,000,000 of land value, with improvements worth \$22,100,000,000 and equipment which has a value of an additional \$12,500,000,000.

Farms and factories, including all property and equipment, constitute \$27,200,000,000 of our national wealth, according to this latest survey.

Manufactured and natural products total \$40,600,000,000. This includes everything from carpet tacks to gold in the mine blocked out but not yet mined.

Personal property constitutes about one-ninth of the total wealth. Furniture, clothing, jewelry and items of that sort owned by the people of the United States are worth \$44,700,000,000. And that doesn't include automobiles, which are a comparatively small part of the whole. Less than ten billion dollars covers the present value of the nation's automobiles.

Gold and silver bullion—that is, gold and silver which have not been coined or made into jewelry, tableware or other commodities—held in the United States is worth around \$9,000,000,000. More than half of that is gold held by the United States Treasury, the Federal Reserve bank and other banks as a reserve against currency. This gold reserve alone constitutes the largest amount of the precious metal ever gathered under one flag in the history of the world.

Out of the entire volume of national wealth about one-sixteenth, or \$23,000,000,000 worth, is exempt from taxation. This includes all property used for public purposes by the Federal, state and local governments, and the property of religious, charitable and educational institutions exempt by law from taxation.

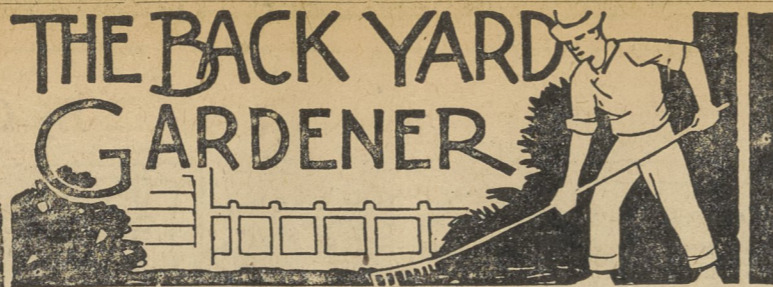
The total wealth of the country, divided by the number of inhabitants, gives us the average per capita wealth and this is also far in excess of that of any other nation, amounting to around \$3,000 for every man, woman and child.

The wealth is unequally distributed among the states, however. Nevada has the greatest wealth per person, not because it has the smallest population, for there are seventeen states having fewer inhabitants, but because of the immense wealth in Nevada's mines of gold, silver, copper and other metals. Nevada's average wealth is \$7,338 per person.

Alabama has the lowest per capita rate of wealth distribution, amounting to only \$1,284 for each person. This is because Alabama's natural resources are comparatively undeveloped and its industrial development, while large, has not yet caught up with the growth of its population.

New York, richest of all the states in total wealth is only about average in the per capita figures. The ten million inhabitants of the Empire State are worth an average of \$3,513 each.

The figures of the National Industrial Conference Board are for the year 1928. The nation is probably richer now, but it takes a year and more to compile the figures, which will always be that far behind. The last estimate made by the United States Bureau of the Census was in 1922, when the national wealth was \$320,000,000,000. In 1912 the Government figures were only \$186,300,000,000. In sixteen years, therefore, the wealth of America nearly doubled. And even allowing for the fact that a dollar today represents a smaller amount of wealth than it did in 1912, nevertheless we have made pretty good progress. Very carefully worked out calculations made by the United States Department of Labor continuously kept up to date, show that the purchasing power of the 1930 dollar is about 67 cents as compared with the dollar of 1912. So our actual increase



Start Annuals in Wide, Shallow Boxes

The season is now at hand to start those annuals wanted for early effect in the garden, particularly to transplant into tulip beds to give color in place of the yellowing leaves of the bulbs. While it may be a little too early for the cold frame or hotbed in the northern states, the seed box in a sunny window may do its duty effectively.

Start ten weeks stocks, salvias and verbenas for early bloom. Snapdragons also can be got going to good advantage as they require a longer growing season before coming into full beauty than many annuals.

Give them plenty of air. Cover the boxes with glass until germination starts. Then see that the glass is raised sufficiently to admit plenty of air. Do not place in full sun with the glass over them closely. They are likely to be scalded.

Bake the earth and sift finely before planting the seeds. Place the rough material over a layer of little stones or broken flower pot in the bottom of the box and the fine soil above fills. Firm before planting the



The Soil in Seed Boxes Should Be Firmed Before Planting the Seeds.

seed. On cold nights move the seed box away from the window. The boxes do not need sun until the seeds begin to germinate. They may be kept in any convenient place until the sprouts begin to show, but at this time they must be moved to the light.

Don't sow too thickly. Sow thinly and sow in rows. The seed box can be ruled off into rows an inch or half inch apart and it will be much easier to transplant from rows with less loss than if you have to dig into a thick and broadcast planting.

Cover seeds double their thickness. Do not bury too deep. Fine seeds merely press on the surface of the soil. Water the boxes by dipping them in a tub or pan of water, not by pouring water on the surface.

Be sure that the seed boxes have ample drainage so that watering them from below in this manner is a simple



Seeds Started in Boxes Will Be Ready to Transplant in Place of Tulips.

and practical process. Too much water is death to seedlings. Keep them moist but not wet.

Turn the boxes from day to day so the seedlings will not grow one-sided stretching to the light.

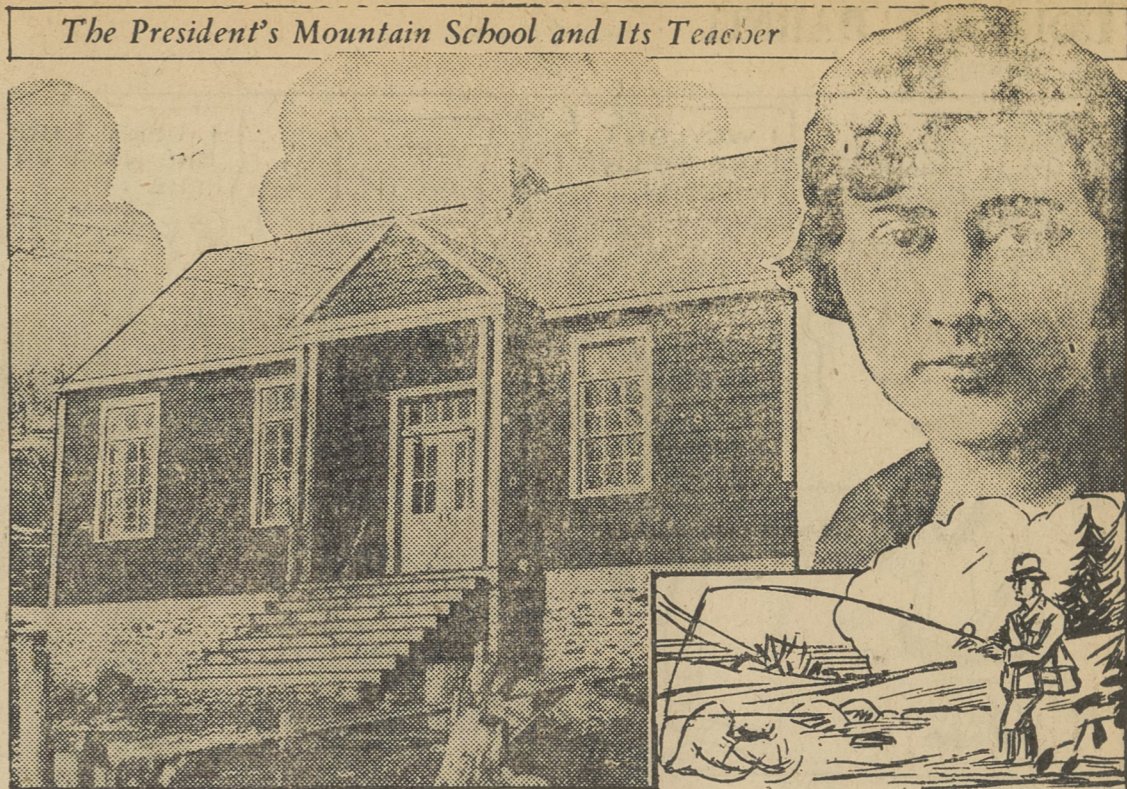
The usual seed box used in the florists' trade is technically known as a "flat." This means a wide, shallow box. About three inches deep or even less is the usual size. Boxes from the grocery can be saved down readily for this purpose or they can be manufactured. It is best to make them, for better lumber is put into them and they will last for several seasons.

Even with hotbeds or cold frames the seed box usually is brought into use either to set into the frames or for starting seeds indoors especially of plants which need close watching to regulate temperature and moisture.

Under the general term of garden frames are included the hotbed, the cold frame, and the small seed frames. There is no more useful adjunct to successful gardening and, once installed, a gardener wonders how he ever got along without one. They are fundamentally merely a wooden frame to support glass, sash being made in standard sizes to fit the usual 3 by 6-foot unit and now they are made in half size for convenience in handling.

Try some new annuals this year. There is an unusually fine selection of new things and old favorites that have been brought back into circulation from which to select.

The President's Mountain School and Its Teacher



When President Hoover discovered that there was no school for the mountain children living near his fishing camp at Madison, Va., he promised to supply one. It has just been finished and Miss Christine Vest, herself a mountain girl from Kentucky, a graduate of Berea College and Columbia University, has been appointed as teacher.

She Busts Bronchos



Miss Grace Runyon of Cheyenne, Wyo., who has been acclaimed the world's champion woman rough rider.

RAIN or SHINE

Snow Wind or Hail

Public Sale

Wednesday, March 12th

Ten O'clock

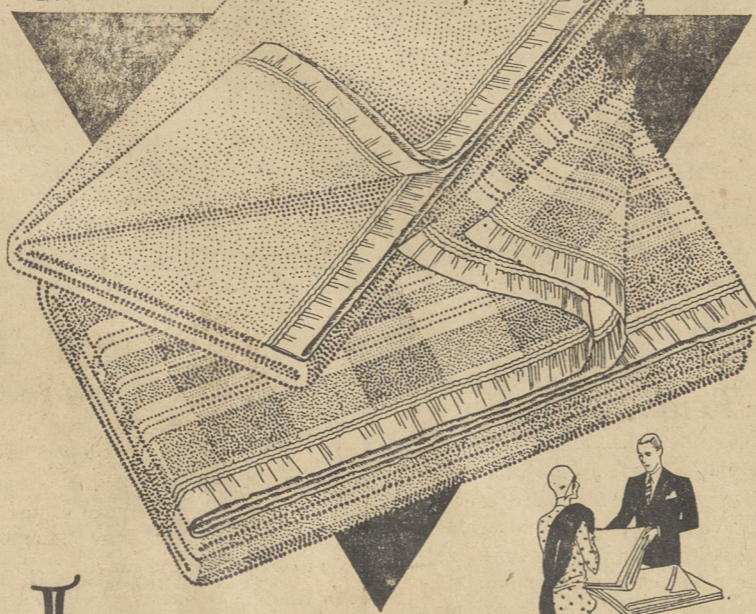
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Color Sets lend charm by day and warmth by night — yet they cost no more than ordinary blankets! Part Wool Nashuas are made in the world's largest blanket mills, where quantity production brings down the price per pair. Even in the generous double bed size, they're moderately priced. Come in and see them.

in wealth in sixteen years, as a nation, is about 37 per cent. And that is doing pretty well, thank you!

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