MORE PROSPERITY IS FORECAST

By 1960 the United States can be producing goods and services at a rate 88 percent higher than the peacetime boom year of 1929, according to a study, "America's Needs and Resources", made by the Twentieth Century Fund.

That production rate, which would amount to $202,000,000,000—or $2,000,000,000 more than the peak wartime output in 1944—would put America's living standards on a level higher than any previously known, the survey declares. Its figures are based on 1944 dollars.

A comprehensive review and forecast of American life in the immediate past and future, the half-million word study will be published in book form early in May. The survey predicts:

1. By 1960 there will be a continued high level of employment, with 60.2 million at work and a "normal" unemployment of only 3.2 million.

2. The average work week will continue its long-term decline, falling from 43 hours in 1940 to 40.8 in 1950 and 37.7 ten years later. At the same time, productivity of workers will increase so that the average output person, which stood at 74 cents in 1940, will go up to 87.5 cents (in 1940 prices) in 1950 and $1.03 a decade after that.

3. Higher incomes will mean the average family three years from now will spend only 60 cents of each dollar on the "necessities" of food, clothing and shelter compared with 75 cents in 1909. Even with that lower proportionate expenditure, however, it says the average person will be better fed and clothed and sheltered, and will have more to spend for medical care, household operation, consumer transportation and recreation.

TELEPHONE STRIKE ENDS AT EASTON

The three-weeks'-old telephone strike ended abruptly in Easton at 10 o'clock this (Friday) morning, when pickets were "persuaded" by a determined group of local business men to quit their posts and permit the operators to return to their jobs.

A delegation of business men approached the pickets earlier in the day and requested that the picketing be abandoned and the operators allowed to go back to their switchboards. It is understood the pickets were requested to leave their posts by 10 A.M.

At 10 A.M., however, the pickets still patrolled the street in front of the telephone office, indicating they had no intention of quitting their posts, but finally were persuaded by the large group of citizens who had gathered at the scene, that it would be advisable to abandon picketing 'and permit service to be resumed here.

PEACE IN PHONE STRIKE NOT IN SIGHT EFFORTS COLLAPSE

Negotiations with the Union representing the Telephone Craft employees were abruptly broken off when the Union rejected the Company's offer for settling the strike, according to a spokesman of the local Companys local business office, late Tuesday afternoon.

Agreement had been reached by both parties for local arbitration of wages last Friday and collective bargaining then proceeded with respect to working conditions. Agreement on practically all of these items, involving liberalized working conditions was reached in collective bargaining which continued until Monday.

In rejecting the Company's proposal, the Union, having obtained substantial concessions on a number of their demands, backed down on the tentative agreements reached in earlier meetings with respect to local arbitration of wages.

In switching their position today, they asked if the Company had a wage offer to make. The Company repeated its proposal which had been agreed to in earlier meetings t oabide by a decision of a threeman Maryland board on wages.

The Company is unable to understand the Union's sudden change in position with an agreement so nearly reached.

MARYLAND CROP REPORT AS OF APRIL 1, 1946

The 1947 season is about 10 days to two weeks later than last year according to the Maryland Crop Reporting Service. Snow and rains the latter part of March capped the delaying effect of cold weather throughout the month and slow progress in farm work and vegetable growth was made. Winter grains were "greening" and they appear to have withstood the winter well, as the cold winter weather prevented excessive early plants development, thus improving yield prospects. Seeding of spring grains has been delayed by co weather and wet fields, so that possibly the full intended acreage may not be reached. Fruit trees came through the winter in good condition with practically no freeze or frost damage. However, cold March kept buds dormant later than usual and as a result the freeze danger is much less than in 1945 and 1946 when blooming occurred earlier than usual. March temperatures averaged about 5.4 degrees below normal, while precipitation was the coldest March since 1941 and the seventh coldest March since 1895.

FARM DRAINAGE AMONG CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Now is the time, when rains show up poor drainage areas on many farms, for Delaware farmers to acquaint themselves with the farm drainage practice of the 1947 Agricultural Conservation Program.

A feature of this practice, helpful to many farmers says C. E. Ocheltree, state director of the production and Marketing Administration, is the technical assistance in planning and laying out ditches which will be provided any farmer by the Soil Conservation Service.

Farmers who wish to do farm drainage as a part of their farm agricultural conservation program should contact their local ACP Committee. The committee will arrange for this Soil Conservation Service assistance and upon approval and completion of the work will authorize a credit payment of eight cents per cubic yard of earth removed.

Where a drainage project may involve a ditch which runs through more than one farm, farmers may form a pool to carry out such an operation.

GIRLS QUIT FARMS FOR LIFE IN CITIES

"Farm girls are going to the cities to a life of spinsterhood, while hundreds of boys who need wives to be good farmers are doomed to bachelorhood," so says Douglas Marshall, rural sociologist at the University of Minnesota, according to Farm journal.

In 1940 there were, on Minnesota farms, 147 men between the ages of 20 and 24 for every 100 women of the same ages. The situation is even worse today, and girls are leaving the farms faster than boys.

Mr. Marshall says something needs to be done to bring the girls back to the farms.

One result of the present trend, he said, is that the farm birth rate, already going down, will go down even faster. A survey Marshall recently made showed that by 1960 (only thirteen years from now) the 22 best agricultural counties in Minnesota will have only 73 "surplus" farm boys among the whole 22. He believes that is typical of the mid-West generally.

If more than that number leave those counties for the city, there will be good farming opportunities in those counties for boys from the poorer sections, for the birth rate is dropping more rapidly where the land is best and living standards are highest.

Mr. Marshall has two suggestions:

"Make life on the farm more pleasant for farm boys and girls. And pay more attention to the education of the youngsters from the poorer farm areas, because both agriculture and industry are going to need them."

NEW PRODUCTS JOIN DECLINES IN PRICES

The battle for lower prices found new recruits today in the ranks of makers of soap, fats, oils, chemicals, wire and cables, music records and Producers of Broadway plays.

Retailers concentrated attention on the embattled housewives of New England, who were reported hastening to take advantage of the ten-day Newburyport (Mass.) ten per cent retail price cut, which had spread to near-by communities.

But across the nation buyers cheered recent cuts at wholesale levels of fats, oils, soap, butter, pork and beef prices, which they hope to see soon on shelves of retailers who have not yet announced reductions.

There remained a strong warning, however, from manufacturers and wholesalers that "really widespread price reduction" cannot come until labor and material costs stop soaring.

The first big break in the price of soaps came when Colgate-Palm Olive-Peet Company announced at Jersey City, N. J., at ten per cent cut in bulk soap.

Lever Brothers in Boston announced a ten per cent cut on all major soap products and glycerine "in response to President Truman's appeal," and M. Werk Company said in Cincinnati a ten per cent cut will be made.

Prices of fats and oils, highly important in soap making, have dropped substantially, paving the way for a cut in soap. Soybean oil, cottonseed oil, peanut oil, corn oil, coconut oil and tallow have been marked down anywhere from 6 3-4 to 11 cents a pound.

Hog prices continued to slide in Chicago, although at a slower rate, and were off 25 to 75 cents a hundredweight. Cattle prices were steady to lower and sheep steady to higher.

31,600 SEEK JOBS THROUGHOUT STATE

A total of 31,600 Marylanders were seeking work through the fifteen State offices of the Maryland State Employment Service as of March 31 last, Russell S. Davis, chairman of the Employment Security Board announced this week.

This total included 9,600 nonveteran men, 8,450 women and 13,550 veterans.

It seems like people complain if things go their way and the same people complain if things do not go their way. So leave off those worrying things when you can get one bag of Jones' Best Flour and one pound of that good hog lard so many people talk about, for $1.15. Then you can make good bread. People say it is the best lard they have used for years. Annie, that beef you had for dinner, my, it was good. Grandpa smacked his mouth and said: Give me some more of that good beef and those sweet potatoes and gravy. Grandpa's eyes sparkled like they did in year passed by. Jim, I don't blame people for using that good flour and lard. Sweet potatoes, 7c lb.; hog feed for more meat; laying mash for more eggs; dog feed for more life; checken feed, starter and grower; white meal; men's shirts, were $2.85, now $1.49; sweet and juicy oranges, 29c doz.; army jackets, $3.95; chocolate candy, was 50c, now 29c lb.; five-string brooms, 75c; lot of tennis shoes; children's dresses, $1; bed sheets, $1.59; white paint, inside and outside; men's shorts, 50c; books written by S. H. Jones, 10c, 25c, 50c; chocolate syrup, was 29c, now 15c. Look here, people—Jim, look at this and smile—2 pounds of cod fish, 15c. I don't blame people for buying such great bargains. 5 yards muslin, $1.25; women's shoes, $2.50; men's gloves, 30c; army shoes, $1.50; army shirts, 85c, lot of army pants, $1.50 pair; men's caps, were $2.50, your choice for 75c; Phillips pork and beans, 3 cans 35c; peas, 10c can. The boys want to know about Liza. She's still on the scene. Chip beef.
—S. H. JONES, Church Creek, Md.

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