MRS THOMAS PITTMAN
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TODAY and TOMORROW

One of the disconcerting factors in the business picture is the spottiness that has been developing. Even six or eight months ago almost anything would find an immediate and profitable market. The backlog for manufacured articles of all kinds still seemed virtually inexhaustible. That is no longer true.

Small, private aricraft are an especially outstanding example of the change. Following the war, a long list of manufacturers rushed into production. Some optimists seemed to think that the personal plane would become nearly as abundant as the automobile. What actually happened was that the market became saturated in a remarkably short time. Where, less than a year ago, new small planes sold at premiums, overstocked dealers are now offering them at a discount. At least one maker has abandoned production of a once heavily advertised model. Used plane prices—due in large part to the sale of surplus government ships—have sagged. The usual reason given for the public's reluctance to buy planes is the high operating cost, which is far beyond the means of the average family.

Many other coumodities are in the same boat. Small radios, for instance, are a glut on the market. Prices have been slashed. And where, in the recent past, in the recent past, it was next to impossible to find a standard—brand radio—phonograph combination, you can now take your pick of scores of models and styles in all price brackets. And many a buyer is showing an unanticipated reluctance to invest in expensive equipment.

This condition is not entirely restricted to luxury and semi-luxury lines. Dry goods have run into consumer resistance. Sheets and other linens, once among the scarcest of items, have tended to move slowly. Stores report that women in increasing numbers are turning thumbs down on the higher-priced dresses and coats, There has been a slackening in the "soft-goods" field. And that, in turn, means reduced employment and worker income. As retail and wholesale inventories build up, orders to manufacturers go down.

This is not universal by any means. The automobile makers, according to Business Week, "haven't even made a dent in their market as yet." Recently car output took a drop, due to a lack of flat steel. But it is being increased as rapidly as the producers can get the necessary materials. All car dealers seem to have sufficient orders on their books to last for the rest of this year, and perhaps well into next. Even so, the dealers—as well as the makers—are seriously concerned over what will happen when the backlog is used up and they have to really start selling once more. Thousands of people have reluctantly abandoned plans for buying new cars—because of the price tags.

Probably the greatest decline, so far as dollar-volume and jobs are concerned, has occurred in residential building. It has slowed everywhere, and in some sections has come to a virtual standstill. It is holding up best in rural areas where cost of building is somewhat lower than in the metropolitan districts. It is at its worst in suburbs of cities, where extremely ambitious plans for home developments have not matured. The need for homes is as high and perhaps higher than ever—but prices, which buyers consider out of all reason, stop sales.

Industrial building has done much better. Many companies have had to expand to meet their committments and to maintain their competitive positions, but a number of important businesses have announced that expansion plans have been curtailed, or have been postponed in the hope that costs will come down.

All in all, production is still at a high level. But the dark spots in the picture are becoming more numerous. The government economists are frankly worried. Unemployment has not reached a serious level yet, but it has been increasing. A drop in the amount of overtime work available has hit many working families hard. This is

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Rise In Employment Seen In Near Future

Indications are that by September 15 employment in Maryland will have shown a net gain of 7,700 over a four-month period, bringing pay rolls in key establishments in the State to 329,800, compared with 322,100 employed on May 15.

This brightening labor prospect is on the basis of anticipated hiring schedules of the State's leading employers as reported to the Employment Security Board, of which Russell S. Davis is chairman.

A recent survey by the board shows that the decline in employment, growing out of layoffs which began in February, has been checked, while recent layoffs in a few major industries are more than offset by increased hirings in service and allied establishments.

A critical analysis of the employment figures month by month since the turn of the year and the hiring schedules projected through September 15 show that employment in Maryland is approaching stabilization.

Had a major commercial and industrial building program expected in the second quarter of the year materialized, the employment picture would be much brighter.

But with an estimated $65,000,000 in construction projects deferred—because of high prices and a growing cautiousness displayed by sponsors—employment opportunities are declining.

Six months ago hiring schedules of leading Baltimore employers called for an aggregate of 7,500 new employes. By March this number had been pared to 5,500. It now stands at about 4,000.

Nevertheless unemployment is now lower than had been anticipated early in the year, when it appeared that approximately 30,000 would now be unemployed in Baltimore. In May, 1946, unemployment in the Baltimore area was officially estimated at 46,000.

The employment outlook is declared to be "highly satisfactory" in practically every principal labor market of the State, including the Baltimore metropolitan section, comprising the city and portions of Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Howard counties, Hagerstown, Cumberland and Frederick.

Most of the losses in pay rolls in Hagerstown and vicinity growing out of heavy layoffs during February have been regained or will be wiped out by September 15, the records show.

Employment as of May 15 in nonmanufacturing enterprises in the Washington county industrial center was up compared with March 15, with industrial employment slightly lower. Thus employment in 49 principal establishments of Hagerstown is fairly static at 11,750.

In Cumberland, employment between March 15 and May 15 mounted slightly in 41 representative establishments, and pay rolls are expected to hold steady at about 21,400—barring strikes — through the next quarter.

Employment figures supplied by 26 key employers in the Frederick area show current and near-future pay rolls will include some 6,500 workers, or about the same number as were at work on March 15.

Considering the counties as a whole, 422 firms reported total employment on March 15 of 92,650, of 92,580 on May 15, while their hiring schedules call for pay rolls on June 15 numbering 94,400 workers, on July 15 of 94,800 and on September 15 of 95,650.

In the Baltimore area 327 establishments listed pay rolls totaling 234,000 workers on March 15, compared with 229,500 on May 15. By July 15 these same concerns anticipate pay rolls of 232,500 and by September 15 of more than 234,000.

Between March 15 and May 15 over-all employment in representative Maryland manufacturing enterprises covered by the Employment Security Board's monthly surveys declined by 6,200.

SUNDAY BASEBALL WARRANTS GOTTEN

Warrants charging ten members of the Deal Island baseball club with "unlawfully engaging in a baseball game on Sunday" were sworn out Monday by Carl Hoffman, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

The warrants were issued by Magistrate L. Stanley Ford under a statute authored by Hoffman and enacted during the 1947 session of the Legislature.

Hoffman said the Sunday ball games "seriously" curtailed church attendance. He said the Deal Island diamond, only 120 yards from the St. John's Methodist Church, was a "scene of profanity and drunkeness."

He declared a week ago, when there was no game on the home field, 90 attended church, while last Sunday, when there was a local game, he counted only 39 worshippers.

The Hoffman Act provides for a $25 fine or a jail sentence in lieu of the fine. It applies only to the legislator's home district of Deal Island.

FOODS LISTED AS PLENTIFUL

A wide variety of foods will be plentiful next month, the Department o Commerce announced yesterday.

For budget meals in July, the abundant fruits and juices will include fresh lemons and oranges, canned grapefruit segments, canned citrus juices and canned tomato juice.

At least three canned vegetables will be plentiful — peas (standard grade), diced carrots and diced beets.

Potatoes both new and old will continue plentiful.

Cottage cheese at this season of high milk production will be plentiful and reasonable in price, compared to other protein foods, said the Department's market specialists.

Fresh and frozen fish (except shellfish) also will be generally plentiful because of heavy fish landings and large cold storage holdings of fish.

For summer sandwiches, the department says "markets will continue to offer good supplies of peanut butter."

BROILER PRODUCTION DROPS ON PENINSULA

Broiler production on the Delmarva Peninsula, largest producing area in the nation, fell off 24 per cent last year but the average price per bird—30.2 cents per pound—was the highest on record, a Department of Agriculture report reveals.

Production on the peninsula totaled 85,797,000 birds which, despite the decrease from 1945, was 78 per cent higher than the 10-year average (1935-44).

Delaware led all states in the country with 21 per cent of the nation's poultry output. Maryland was second with 12 per cent. The average price for broilers in 1945 was 28.5 cents per pound and the 10 year average is 21 cents.

Delaware produced 54,675,000 broilers in 1946 compared with 72,900,000 in 1945. Maryland's output was 31,122,000 birds compared to 39,900,000 in 1945.

DELAWARE PARK

The invasion of Delaware Park began in full force with the closing of the Pimlico meeting last week, and nearby Stanton suddenly became a bustling sports center as horsemen moved in to prepare for the richest 30-day session, scheduled for the traditional dates of May 29 to July 5. Only two weeks remain for trainers to get their charges in shape for a million dollar race meeting, enlivened by 14 colorful stake races, including the three $25,000 classics, the Kent, New Castle and Sussex.

Racing Secretary Gil Haus and his capable staff estimate that 500 thoroughbreds will be on the grounds this week, filling a good portion of the 1436 stalls available for the meeting.

SENATOR DAVIS' CONDITION REPORTED SATISFACTORY

Former State Senator Wilmer Fell Davis who has been a patient at the Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, Boston, Mass., for the past two weeks, underwent surgery last Wednesday, June 4th and was to undergo his second operation the latter part of this week or the first of next. At this time Senator Davis' condition is satisfactory.

New Extension Of Control Of Credit Asked

President Truman asked Congress this week for a peacetime act permitting the Government to cubb installment buying and some other forms o' credit lest easy money keep prices from coming down.

But if Congress refuses, he will bow to its decision, he said, and remove the credit controls now imposed under wartime powers.

The President's views were made known in his absence in Canada in a letter he wrote to Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Like the President, Mr. Eccles urged the committee to approve the bill giving the Federal Reserve Board authority to continue in peacetime the wartime credit curbs it now exercises. Representatives of the American Bankers Association opppse some parts of the measure.

The principal control now requires a down payment of at least one third of the price, and limits the time in which the balance must be paid on installment purchases of such things as automobiles and household goods.

Mr. Truman's letter quoted a paragraph from a memorandum of the Council of Economic Advisers with which he expressed "full accord":

"There now exists the power to limit the growth of installment credit which, even under the present restraints, has been expanding at a disturbing rate. This power now rests on wartime executive order, which may have to be rescinded in the absence of legislative authority for its continuation.

"If the curbs on the extension of installment credit now being exercised under Regulation W were to be removed at this time, there would be a tendency of producers and distributors to try to sustain the absorptive power of the market by accepting lower downpayments and a longer time period rather than adjusting prices to -the purchasing power of the current incomes.

"This would postpone rather than promote the kind of stable adjustment that our economy requires."

NEW DRUG FOR ASTHMA

After several months of manufacturing delay, a new drug developed by Baltimore doctors for the treatment of sufferers from asthma who also have high blood pressure is ready to go on the market, Dr. Howard M. Bubert, one of the physicians, said this week.

Dr. Bubert is assistant professor of medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and chief of the allergy clinic at the University Hospital Working with him in testing the drug, known as butanefrine, was Dr. John P. Doenges, now assistant resident at Mercy Hospital. Dr. Doenges will return to the University Hospital next month, his associate said.

In a report prepared for the profession, Dr. Bubert and Dr. Doenges told of preliminary work with 40 cases of bronchial asthma with butanefrine administered intramuscularly during 66 different attacks.

The value of the new drug is that it relieves the asthmatic attack without raising the blood pressure, Dr. Bubert said.

"Adrenilin, usully used to relieve the attacks, also tends to raise the blood pressure," Dr. Bubert explained.

Experiments over two years and treatment of many patients in addition to the original 40 subjects give evidence that butanefrine avoids that danger, the physician added.

"The new drug is not quite as effective as adrenalin, but can be used in much greater quantities, so that ultimate results are equivalent without the accompanying strain on heart and blood pressure," Dr. Bubert said.

STATE ACCIDENT FUND GETS NEW CHAIRMAN

William B. Lebherz, of Frederick, was elected chairman of the State Accident Fund at a meeting of the five commissioners in Baltimore this week.

New Prohibition Amendment To Const. Offered

A new prohibition amendment to the Consctitution is proposed by Representative Joseph R. Bryson Democrat of South Carolina.

He has introduced a resolution providing for an amendment to prohibit the manufacture, sale, transportation or possession of any beverages containing more than one-half of 1 per cent alcohol by volume in the United States and all territory subject to its jurisdiction.

To become effective, the amendment would have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of both the House and Senate and then by the Legislatures of three fourths ot the states.

"The condition of the people of this country under the free sale of alcoholic beverages has become pitiable," Mr. Bryson declared in a speech to the House.

"We have waited until the war was over and the troops were home to introduce this measure, in order that there might be no question as to the full discussion and free determination of all the people of the United States on this matter of public policy."

Mr. Bryson did not identify any other person or group as being associated with him in introducing the measure.

He said that "again a people's movement has started" in support of national prohibition and that there has been been "a steady increase of dry territory under local option."

NEW EMPLOYMENT RECORD REPORTED SET

Government analysts who had forecast a recession did some cheer ful hedging early this week as the Census Bureau reported that civilian employment rose to an all-time high of 58,330,000 in May.

This development, along with reports that retail sales are holding up better than generally expected, has considerably brightened the overall economic picture, officials said.

With civilian employment eclipsing even the war years, the total number of Americans in paying jobs went to 59,800,000, including 1,470,000 in the armed forces.

That total has been topped only in the July-August periods of 1945 and 1946, when the strength of the armed forces was much higher and the peak summer employment season was on.

The number of civilians with jobs in May represented a gain of approximateiy 1,500,000 over the previous month.

The seasonal upswing in farm work acounted for 1,000,000 of the rise, but the 500,000 gain in non-farm work loomed as far more significant in the eyes of Government economic analysts.

Industrlial employment had dropped in April for the first time since the postwar business boom got under way and many had regarded that as signaling the start of a downgrade.

Some officials greeted the upward rebound in May as evidence that pronouncements on the arrival of a recession were at least premature.

The upturn in employment was accompanied by a 450,000 decline in unemployment during May, dropping the number vainly hunting jobs to a little under 2,000,000. That was 350,000 below the unemployment total of May a year ago.

One reason employment expanded more than three times as much as unemployment shrank was the entry of seasonal workers, including farm women, into the labor force.

AVIATION LEADERS TO ATTEND HEARING

Leaders of all phases of the aviation industry are expected to attend a public hearing Monday on the Memorial Day crash of an Eastern Airlines plane near Port Deposit, which was fatal to 53 persons.

This was announced this week by officials of the Civil Aeronautics Board. The hearing will be held at Bainbridge Naval Training Base.

Aviation leaders have announced their intention to attend the hearing because of the important and unusual aspects of the case the officials added.

More Investigation To Be Made On Farm Loans

The Government counted upon "more conservative" lending policies of credit institutions to help halt the boom in farm land prices.

Representatives of insurance companies, banks and other lending agencies agreed at a conference yesterday that future loans on farms should be based on the normal, long-term earning capacity rather than current high figures.

The Government-sponsored federal land banks have followed the policy of making loans on such an appraisal since 1933.

The conference, called at President Truman's direction and attended by farm organizations and government officials as well, also urged Government agencies, state agricultural colleges, farm organizations, and lending agencies to caution prospective buyers of high-priced land.

In calling the conference, Mr. Truman noted that farm prices have increased 92 per cent since 1939 and said he feared a farm price collapse similar to that which followed World War 1.

Representative Harold D. Cooley (D.) of North Carolina in a talk in the House criticized the conference as "a deliberate effort to drive down the value of farm land and to frighten the public."

Mr. Cooley contended that farm land prices have not kept pace with other prices and asked why farm owners should be singled out "for slaughter of the value of their investments."

The conference heard charges that the Government itself, through its own "liberal" lending policies, has contributed to inflated land prices.

H. W. Nowell, Vice-President of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York, pointed specifically at the "liberal rediscount policy" of the Federal Reserve System. Government-guaranteed loans to veterans, and Farm Credit Administration support of legislation which would enable the Federal Land Banks to make loans at 75 per cent, instead of the present 65 per cent, of the appraised value of farms.

FLAG WEEK CELEBRATION AT FORT McHENRY SUNDAY

Plans for a celebration at Fort McHenry at 2:30 P.M. on Sunday, the last day of National Flag Week, are being drawn up by the Flag Week Committee, according to the committee chairman, John F. Bashchen, State Commander of the American Legion.

National Flag Week, June 8 to 15, is sponsored by the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association of which Dr. Dudley P. Bowe is president. Mrs. Arthur P. Sewell, curator of the Flag House, is secretary of the committee.

CANNERS GET EXTRA SUGAR

Increased provisional allowances of sugar for fruit and vegetable canners and pickle packers have been put into effect, according to an announcement received monday from the sugar-rationing administration of the Department of Agriculture

The increases are expected to take no more total sugar for these purposes than was used last year, but the estimated pack of some of the items is smaller, it was announced.

Outlets for fruits packed in water or light syrup are declinmg, according to the Agriculture Department, and the increase for fruit canners is provided in order to enable them to use their normal (or 1941) quantity of sugar per case of product.

A provisional allowance is a method of rationing sugar for industrial use on the basis of sugar content per unit of production.

Persons or associations (including co-operatives) who can fruit for home use are not eligible for provisional allowances, it was announced. They must depend on sugar for home canning available through the use of sugar ration stamps validated for consumer purposes.

Major changes in the revised regulations on sugar allowances are as follows:

1. Increase of allowance for fruit canners from 90 per cent to 100 per cent of their 1941 per case sugar usage.

2. Canners who had a low sugar base average, or who operated at a base lower than the industry as a whole, will be granted increases to make their bases approach the industry average.

3. Provisional allowance users who pack dried beans, frozen fruits or vegetables will receive increased allowances through revision of the sugar content allowed per unit of production.

4. Provisional allowances will be made available for packers of pickled cucumber, cauliflower, onions and watermelons, and for packers of spices and brandied fruits, red sweet cabbage, carrots and picked beets.

FORMER SHORE LINOTYPE OPERATOR REPORTED KILLED

Word was received here this week of the death of Andrew MacFarland, at one time employed as a linotype operator by the J. W. Stowell Printing Co. Death was said to have resulted from the accidental discharge of a shotgun.

Mr. MacFarland was living at the home of his parents, at Greenbay, Va., He is survived by his wife.

RITES HELD FOR DROWNED HURLOCK BOY

Dorsey Cusick, 15-year-old Hurlock boy, a student in the 9th grade lost his life Wednesday afternoon about 4 o'clock by drowning while swimming near Choptank. The lad lived with his greatuncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Thornie Phillips of Hurlock.

Funeral services were held this (Friday) afternoon at 3 o'clock at Unity Methodist Church, Hurlock, with interement in Washington Cemetery.

POTATO SALE AT CENT A BUSHEL

The Agriculture Department is willing to sell potatoes at one cent a bushel for industrial use to prevent dumping of surplus crops.

The offer was made before the House Food Investigating Committee which is checking on the destruction of surplus potatoes acquired under the Government's price-support program. Some in Alabama were doused with kerosene.

S. R. Smith, chief of the Department's Fruit and Vegetable Branch, told the Committee this week disposition of the potatoes were destroyed, he said, only after every attempt was made to find a use for them.

"I abhore the destruction of food," he said, "but what can we do?"

"Wouldn't it be better to let poor people come and get these potatoes instead of putting kerosene on them?" asked Representative Charles B. Hoeven (R) of Iowa. Mr. Smith replied that "this would seem to be the humane thing to do." But, he said that under the support program established by Congress the Government is obliged to remove from the market otatoes that will not bring the designated price.

The price cannot be maintained, he contended by giving away those potatoes to the general public.

Mr. Smith said the Government might be called upon "at any minute" to take 200 carloads of potatoes in South Carolina. Unless a use can be found for them quickly, he added "there would be no place for them to go but to the dump."

FEDERALSBURG LODGE ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The following members were elected officers for the next term at Federal Lodge No. 35, I.O.O.F on Monday night, June 2: Aaron Kaplan, noble grand; Cecil Johnson, vice grand; Calvert Christopher, chaplain: Willard Handy marshal. The new officers will be installed in their respective offices on Monday night, July 7.

Federal Lodge wishes to thank everyone who helped in the recent garden tractor campaign, for its success which was made possible only by the cooperation of the public and the committees. The winner was Mr. George Lloyd of Cambridge.

There will not be any meeting of Federal Lodge on Monday night, June 16th. All lodges of our zone are invited to attend Dorchester Lodge at Cambridge, on this date. The occasion being the first official visit of Grand Master V. Tracey and the Maryland Grand Lodge Staff of Baltimore.

Russell Davis Injured In Auto. Accident

Police of Talbot are pressing a search for a Tilghman colored man who is alleged to have left the scene of an accident on St. Michaels road Saturday afternoon after his car had collided head on with that of Mr. and Mrs. Russell S. Davis, of Cambridge, injuring Mrs. Davis and badly damaging the car.

Mr. Davis, who is chairman of the Department of Employment Security, and his wife were en route to a dinner for 32nd degree Masons which was being held on the Miles River, when the crash occurred near the Miles River bridge turnoff of the Easton - St. Michaels highway.

According to State Police reports the hit and run driver was proceeding toward Easton at the time of the crash. Attempting to pass another car he crashed head on into the Davis car which was traveling toward St. Michaels.

The Davis car, a new Cadillac, was turned almost completely around and landed in a ditch along the highway. Mrs. Davis suffered hip injuries and was confined to her home on Mill street in Cambridge. Mr. Davis was considerably shaken by the accident.

Police, through careful investigation identified the colored man an dtraced him to his home in Tilghman. He had fled a few hours before their arrival.

RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE LOSS SEEN AT PEAK IN 1947

A railroad economist said here the deficit from passenger service this year is likely to be the greatest in history, although the passenger volume apparently will be the second largest in peacetime.

This view was expressed by J. H. Parmelee, director of the Economic Bureau of the Association of American Railroads, while testifying in behalf of higher railway express charges. He appeared at an Interstate Commerce Commission hearing.

The hearing was called to receive a progress report on the effect of temporary express charge increases grantel the railroads in December.

Testimony brought out that the charges now in effect represent an increase of about 20 per cent over last year. Mr. Parmelee testified.

IThe railroads this year seem likely to handle the greatest freight traffic volume in any peace time year in their history. Their passenger traffic volume will apparently be the second next best in any peacetime year, being surpassed only by 1946. Their operating revenues should far exceed those of any prior peacetime year.

"Despite those favorable factors, their net earnings seem likely to produce a return on net investment of not more than 3 1-2 per cent, which is inadequate from any point of view."

Meanwhile, the Motion Picture Association, listing 31 companies, said it felt that a small increase in express rates would be justified if it guaranteed the standard of service established by the Railway Express Agency before the war.

BILL ON LABOR IS SUPPORTED

Declaring the Taft - Hartley labor bill "is directed toward safeguarding the public interest," the Maryland Farm Bureau has appealed to the President to sign the measure, C. E. Wise, Jr., secretary-treasurer, announced.

"in it, the rights, duties and responsibilities of both workers and employers are clarified and certain abuses eliminated," the bureau said.

"The Maryland Farm Bureau has supported and continues to support the legitimate activities of organized labor aimed to advance the welfare of workers.

"This act denies none of these basic rights of labor. In the past some actions of labor leaders have unduly penalized farmers and society as a whole.

"We contend that the rights of the general public are paramount to the demands of any branch of our economy, be it agriculture, industry or labor.