

The Year's Sensation

IMPROVED FORD MODELS

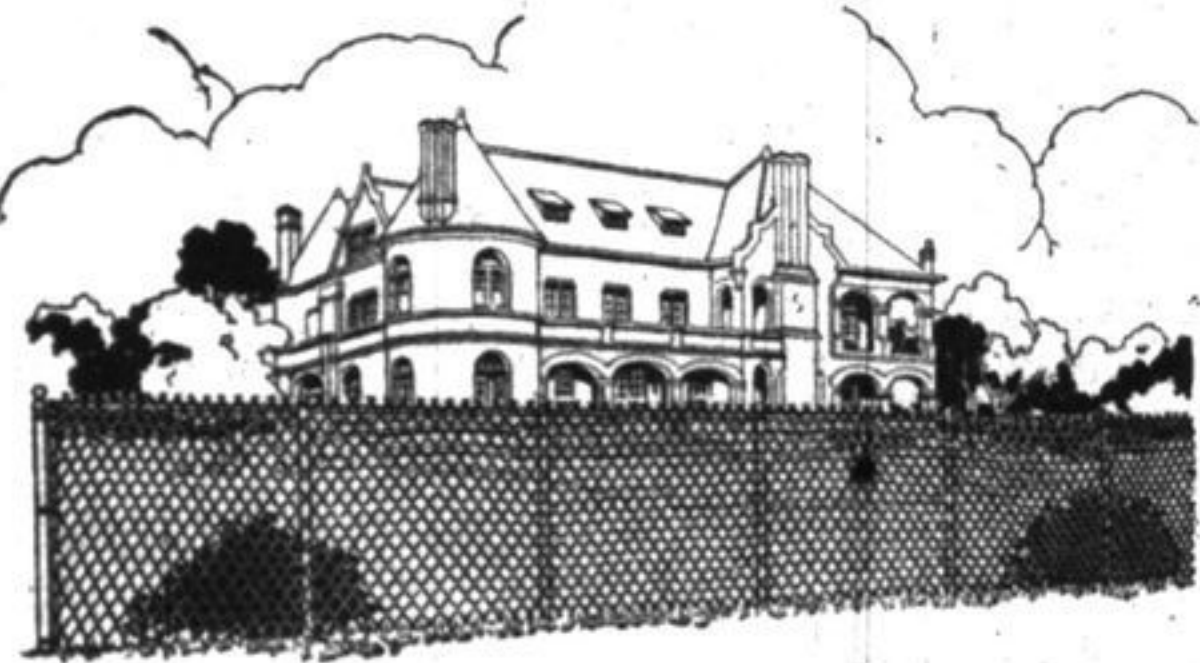
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U. S. INVESTMENTS IN FOREIGN LANDS

Now Total Nine and One-Half Billions of Dollars, Report Says

Total American investments in foreign countries now total nine and one-half billion dollars according to the Finance and Investment division of the Department of Commerce. This total does not include the twelve billions which the foreign government owe the government of the United States, which would bring the total to over twenty billions.

During the first six months of this year foreign securities in the sum of \$51,000,000 were offered to the people of the United States as an investment. During the same period no foreign loans were offered in Great Britain, which has recently adopted a restrictive policy in regard to foreign loans, because of the British return to the gold standard.

The total American investments in Europe is now three times as great as it was before the World War, it is said, and the total is steadily increasing.

The American total of foreign investments, not including the government war loans is distributed as follows, according to the figures:

Government guaranteed obligations: Canada and New Foundland, \$1,125,000,000; Latin America, \$915,000,000; Europe, \$1,665,000,000; Asia and Oceania, \$442,000,000; total, \$4,147,000,000.

Industrial securities and direct investments: Canada and New Foundland, \$1,420,000,000; Latin America, \$3,225,000,000; Europe, \$450,000,000; Asia and Oceania, \$280,000,000; total \$5,375,000,000.

These figures give a total of both classes of foreign investments of \$9,522,000,000.

FORD NOW HAS BIG PLANT IN MEXICO

Assembles Therein Cars To Be Sold In That Country; Other Countries

The Ford Motor company of Mexico has been organized in Mexico City and is now turning out assembled Ford cars and trucks for distribution in that territory. In all its essential details, the Mexican plant is similar to Ford plants in other foreign countries at present only permit assembly of chassis, additional equipment is now being installed. This includes enameling ovens and also facilities for building bodies.

The Ford Motor company plant in Mexico's first automobile factory and its operation is regarded as much a show place of the city as an industrial enterprise by the citizens and Mexican government officials. The plant is housed in a two-story building of 48,000 square feet of floor space which has been remodeled to conform with Ford standards of production. General offices of the company are located in the building.

The company now has 18 foreign and associated companies. Others, in addition to Mexico City, established this year are at Pernambuco, Brazil, and Yokohama, Japan.

FARM CONDITIONS MUCH IMPROVED

Agriculture Department Makes Optimistic Report for Present Year

The Department of Agriculture is decidedly optimistic in painting the picture of farm conditions in the United States for the year 1925. The statement says that promise is good for the recovery in all branches of the livestock industry. Hogs are nearly double the price of a year ago and heavy steers and lambs are higher. Truck crops too are said to be coming in for a share of recovery this year.

The statement continues: "Early estimates suggest a potato production of only about 3.1 bushels per capita, which would be on a par with the shortage years, 1911 and 1919. Onions, cabbage, melons and peaches have been selling at two or three times last year's prices and seemingly have a brick fall market ahead."

"Rains last month helped hay and late oat crops. Corn is making ears now and looks good as a whole. A fair spring wheat crop seems assured, despite considerable hot weather damage and some rust in the Red River valley. Winter wheat was a disappointment but apparently has thrashed out about as much grain as was expected."

"Fruit is not so plentiful in eastern districts, but the Pacific coast will make good much of the deficiency. Cotton has lost ground in the western belt by reason of drought, but indications still point to a sizeable total crop."

The department's general index of purchasing power of farm products in terms of nonagricultural commodities remains at a level of 90, compared with a five year pre-war level taken as 100.

The business world asks for more go-getters but go-to-sleepers seem to be more common.

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