

CONSERVATIVE VIEW OF FARM CONDITIONS

INDICATES IMPROVEMENT

National Republic Quotes Statement by F. Edson White, Head of Armours & Co. Remedies Suggested

We have heard a great deal during the past few months about the plight of the Middle Western farmer and what would happen to him unless this or that plan of farm relief was enacted into law. There is no arguing the question that the farmer has been passing through a bad period due to deflation of land values and other troubles which beset him following and during the liquidation of the World War. But it is good to note that the signs for the future are decidedly promising and that present conditions are much improved over those of two or three years ago, in most states at least.

Weather Conditions
Weather conditions this spring have, on the whole, been better in the majority of communities than those of a year ago, and there is evidence that the corn farmer at least can look forward to better crops than a year ago. And the farmers are busy—too busy to go to conventions and protest meetings as was evidenced by the lack of attendance at the much advertised demonstrations at Kansas City and Houston.

F. Edson White, president of Armour and Company, declared in a recent statement that a careful survey of farm conditions indicated to him that the Middle Western agriculturist is now more prosperous than at any time since the World War period, says the National Republic. A great deal of the farm agitation, he declared, was put forth not by the farmer himself but by the farm politician.

Average Income
The average income of the Middle Western farmer, Mr. White declares, averages on the whole higher than the income of farmers in other sections of the country. The average income in Nebraska is \$4,010, he said, in South Dakota, \$3,356; in Iowa, \$4,180, and in Kansas, \$3,020, while the national farmer income average is \$2,350.

Reports of the Federal Reserve Bank, Mr. White said, indicate that Middle Western farmers have been able to save money, thereby showing they are making money on farming.

The number of bank accounts and the amount of deposits have increased in the last two years, while bank failures have decreased appreciably.

Better farming methods and co-operative marketing directed to regulate the supply and demand, thereby stabilizing prices year in and year out, were some of the remedies proposed by Mr. White for the situation.

Has Suffered
Certain it is that the farmer has suffered and that he is still suffering in many instances, and it is just and proper that he be given the benefit of sane constructive legislation which will help him in solving his agricultural problems. This he has a right to demand and there is little doubt that he will get it. In the meantime little can be gained by so-called calamity howling as it has been practiced by certain professional farm leaders. The best way to ruin a business is to tell everyone it is no good and ought not to be followed. Everyone loses confidence in it and depression naturally results. Better and more careful farming, together with sound marketing machinery, will pull the farmer out of the hole and it is encouraging to know that his situation is steadily growing better.

AVERAGE EXPENSE OF MOTORISTS IN U. S.

ABOUT \$229 EACH IN 1927

Statistics Show That This Sum Was Spent on Average By Car Owners Last Year; Figures Given

An average of \$229.00 was spent by each motorist in the United States during 1927 in the operation and maintenance of his car, according to figures compiled by the American Motorists association, in co-operation with The Automobile club of Illinois. Of this sum \$101.00, or 44 per cent, was expended for fuel and lubricants,

this being the largest item in the motorist's annual operation and maintenance bill.

The \$229.00 figure does not take into account depreciation. The average life of a passenger automobile, however, according to federal government statistics, is seven years. During 1927, the average retail price per passenger car in the United States was \$963.00 which, based on a seven year life expectancy, would mean an average depreciation of \$136.00 per year. From this figure, plus the average upkeep cost of \$229.00 it will be seen that the general average cost of operation of a motor car, plus depreciation, is \$365.00 per year or one dollar per day.

Second Largest Item
The second largest item on the motorist's maintenance bill is for time of mechanics in doing repair work, the motorist expending in 1927, for this item, an average of \$47.00. His replacement parts cost him \$41.00 during the year, and his average tire bill was \$40.00. The total operation and maintenance bill of the 23,127,000 motorists of the country last year aggregated \$5,300,000,000.00, the figures show.

Comparing the cost of operation in 1927 with 1926, the association's figures show that last year the cost was five per cent more than during 1926, when the average operation cost was \$219.00. Comparative figures, between the two years, however, it is pointed out by St. Mayer, president of the Automobile club of Illinois, do not indicate that operation costs are necessarily increasing. The difference is explained primarily by greater mileage made by the average motorist in 1927, which means an increase in not only gasoline consumption, but in tires and wear of replacement parts.

Many Surgeons, Too
The modern pocketbook, like an inflated appendix, has a way of being relieved of its poison. — Woman's Home Companion.

Yielding Romance
Yesterday's romantic sentiments and attachments must give way to today's necessity.—Farm and Fireside.

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Questions and Answers
Q—What is the trend of wages in Illinois for labor? Is it upward or downward? What is the average wage per week for labor in this state?
—C. J. J. Cicero.

A—A Study of the leading cities of Illinois, including Chicago, shows that the general trend of wages for labor is downward. The comparison shows these figures:
Men, 14 cities, average pay per week, June, 1927, \$32.13; May, 1928, \$31.74.
Men, all other cities, average pay per week, June, 1927, \$28.65; May, 1928, \$28.04.
Women, 14 cities, average pay per week, June, 1927, \$18.49; May, 1928, \$17.26.
Women, all other cities, average pay, 1928, \$14.73.
These figures are from a report compiled by the bureau of labor statistics of Illinois.

Q—How many rural post offices and how many miles of rural postal delivery routes are there in Illinois?
—C. L. H. Murphysboro.
A—Illinois has 2,629 post offices and 71,033 miles of rural delivery route. It is apparent, therefore, that rural mail carriers in Illinois travel a distance of almost three times around the world every day.

Q—Where is the so-called Illinois peach belt? What time does the crop go on the market and how large is it?
—S. A. M., Peoria.

A—Commercial peach shipping in Illinois starts in Pujaski, Massac, Union and Johnson counties. The next movement comes from the territory immediately around Centralia or from Washington, Jefferson, Clinton and Marion counties. The third point of movement centers around Flora and Olney in Clay and Richland counties. The crop for 1928 is estimated at about 2,300 car loads. The crop will be marketed between August 5 and probably about August 25. The Illinois peach is generally considered to be superior to either the Georgia or Michigan peach. The Illinois peach industry has been developed on a commercial basis mostly within the last ten years.

Q—Was flogging ever practised as a form of punishment for criminals in Illinois? I have heard that it was. I cannot believe it.
—S. J. P., Chicago.

A—The first white settlements were established in what is now Illinois in about 1700. The first penitentiary was not opened until 1837 when one was built in Alton. Flogging was used as a means of punishing criminals until the prison was built or for 137 years.

Convicts were worked under the contract system, being to all effects slaves, from 1837 to 1871 when the practice was abolished. The first parole act in Illinois was passed in 1867 and was based on the British ticket-of-leave system. The prison parole system in Illinois was definitely established in 1891.

Q—Can you tell me how much federal aid money has been put into road work in Illinois over a period of years?
—R. K., Cairo.

A—The figures are as follows:

Year	Amount
1917	\$ 220,926
1918	441,852
1919	2,843,873
1920	4,132,545
1921	4,365,066
1922	1,082,093
1923	2,164,187
1924	2,797,888
1925	3,232,487
1926	3,191,479
1927	3,175,616
1928	3,154,429
1929*	3,135,225
Total	\$33,957,657

*Appropriated for expenditure next year.

Q—Can you tell me how much corn is raised in Illinois and how much of it is exported to foreign countries?
—C. A. L., Rockford.

A—Illinois produced 254,070,000 bushels of corn in 1927. This is 31 per cent of the amount exported that year or 11 per cent of the nation's crop.

Few children above the age of eight still believe in Santa Claus but we know a lot of grown men who believe in their bootleggers.

Phlebotomy Doctor
Doc. Swatelle cured Bill Atterson without using medicine, and Bill won't pay him. Bill sees he wants something for his money.—Farm and Fireside.

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