

ILLINOIS BUSINESS CONDITIONS GOOD

No Cause for Alarm Says Survey of Chamber of Commerce; Details

There is absolutely no cause for alarm as far as general business conditions in Illinois are concerned according to the October business summary compiled and issued today by the Research Department of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

In most instances business indices are holding up exceptionally well and where September final figures are the latest available even partial reports on the month of October show that the antics of the stock market had only a slight effect on general business. In most of the cities in Illinois business was only given a psychological setback, actual reports showing reasons for a degree of optimism in the near future.

Automobile Sales

Some notice was given the decrease in the sale of new cars in Illinois, the October total of 14,604 new cars being the lowest of the entire year. Later reports indicate that, while there was some curtailment of buying, due to stock market losses, the big portion of the slump was due to natural seasonal causes and to the custom of manufacturers to hold back production at this time. In general, agricultural reports for October were favorable.

Wheat mills reported 5,463,717 bushels of wheat stock in all positions for September, 1929, as compared with 4,771,289 bushels for September, 1928. Illinois plants ground 5,615,831 bushels of corn during October, an increase of 561,109 bushels as compared with September. Farm wages remain practically the same with monthly wages with board reported around \$43.25 per month and monthly wages without board at 55.00. Supply still is in excess of the demand.

Coal and Iron Products

Thirty three coke furnaces were in blast in the Illinois-Indiana district on November 1st as compared with 32 furnaces open as of October 1st. The daily out-put averaged 23,000 gross tons. Pig iron production for October rose to 706,489 tons after a general decline in production through late summer and early fall. Up to October 1st, Illinois coal mines had produced 41,297,842 tons for the first nine months of the year, exceeding the first nine months of 1928 by 4,000,000 tons. September oil output was 531,000 barrels, an average of 17,700 barrels a day. This figure was 40,000 barrels less than for August, 1929, but the curtailment in production was reported to be what the oil industry needed at this time. Production of electric power by public utility plants for September were 3 per cent higher than for the same month a year ago. The public utility plants consumed 483,617 short tons of coal and 2,523 barrels of fuel oil during the month of September.

Postal Receipts

Postal receipts for October amounted to 5,657,307.15 in Chicago alone, an increase of \$136,453.42 as compared with October 1928. 384 new incorporations were reported in Illinois during October. According to Illinois

figures derived from the F. W. Dodge report the week closing September 30, 1929 showed 3 per cent increase over the previous week. With money easing up Illinois building figures are expected to continue to show improvement for October.

Chicago Business Men to Visit Southwest

A "good will" delegation representing Chicago business will invade the Southwest next February, according to an announcement made by the Chicago Association of Commerce. The party probably will be headed by Edward E. Gore, former president of the big commercial organization.

Business leaders in Chicago, who

are urging the expedition, point to the mutually helpful effects that followed the association's tour of the southeastern states early in 1928, when within 10 months after the trip purchases by Cotton Belt consumers in Chicago showed an increase of more than 65 per cent, with corresponding reciprocal leanings to the South. They maintain that the prospects for the Great Central Market offer even greater possibilities in the rapidly booming Southwest.

According to the tentative plans announced by the association, the trip would cover two weeks with stops at the leading cities in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and probably Missouri.

Sees Illinois Leader in Industrial Growth

Roger W. Babson, business analyst and prophet, in a recent address placed Illinois among the three states that will enjoy greatest industrial growth during the next ten years. The other two states are Oklahoma and Alabama. Babson based his prediction on results of a national survey showing these states have abundant natural resources and unlimited fuel supplies.

All sorts of methods are offered, but it's a good bet that one of the most potent factors in keeping the average woman looking young is the corner drug store.

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