

### PESSIMISM SHOULD NOT BE HARBORED

#### Business Conditions Reported Improving; Figures Given to Show Gains

Since last fall the country has been going through a period of depression. The condition is of course not peculiar to the United States but is world-wide. Before the depression came so unexpectedly upon us, it seemed that economic rules had been changed and that it was impossible for our progress and prosperity to slow up. We know better now. But now that we have reached the bottom of the depression, the pessimism which has been created seems as unwarranted as was the glittering optimism of a year ago. A great many people who thought a year ago that business would never slacken, seem to be just as sure now that it has never been so bad as it is and that it will never get better.

This is of course absurd. There have been many worse periods of depression in the country and there are already plenty of signs that we have scraped bottom and are about to climb the hill again.

#### Interesting Report

In this regard it is interesting to note a statement issued recently by the Alexander Hamilton Institute which says: "While business for the half year was materially lower than a year ago, the profit levels for 1928 were closely approached. Returns for the first six months show a drop in income of 28 per cent from last year,

but profits were less than 2 per cent below those of 1928.

"Thirteen industrial groups now show net incomes for the half year exceeding their earnings for six months of 1928. They are beverage and confectionery, chemicals, drugs, electrical equipment, food products, iron and steel, oil, printing and publishing, railway equipment, chain restaurant, miscellaneous service companies, and miscellaneous manufacturing. House financing, installment sales show profits slightly higher than last year and materially above those of 1928."

All of which should be highly encouraging to those who now seem unduly pessimistic. Evidently the country has not gone to the dogs, and there is bound to be some improvement in the near future. When it comes the rebound will be rapid because of the present buyer's hesitancy.

### Bar County Jail to Waukegan City Cases Overcrowding Cause

The doors of the county jail late last week were closed as far as the city prisoners are concerned following an order from Sheriff Lawrence Doolittle to Commissioner Wilson Gee of Waukegan that he could not take any more prisoners.

There are 80 persons, 70 men and 10 women, being held now and when the grand jury reports that number will be pushed up another 15 or so, the sheriff believes.

Of the total inmates there are ten

that were sent to Waukegan as federal prisoners but the others are from Lake county. The sheriff shut-off on the government six weeks ago when he realized that the capacity would be severely taxed.

#### Raids Bring Quota

A large number have been placed in cells through week-end raids staged in Waukegan by State's Attorney A. V. Smith, but the sheriff protested to Gee, who is making a drive on bums and loiterers, because these persons were coming too fast to handle.

At the present time there are 32 men quartered in the corridors of the three floors, which means they are outside of the bull-pen. By locking doors on each floor it is possible to keep these men behind two steels doors if necessary but turnkeys report that there has been good order in spite of the large number in the small quarters.

Doolittle believes that federal prisoners will have to be kept out of the jail altogether in another few years if some provision is not made to enlarge the jail or build a new one. Some of the supervisors have talked of constructing a new jail in the past few days.

### Lake County Cases are Taken Under Advisement by the Supreme Court

Three of the Lake county cases taken before the supreme court yesterday were put in the advisement column by the court.

Two of them were criminal actions, an appeal from Harry Harwell, charged with the murder of his common law wife, Thelma Valentine, and Isaac "Ike" Franklin, sentenced to serve two years in the state prison farm at Vandalia for blind pigging.

The other case was a civil action involving close to \$1,000,000 in alleged unpaid taxes in the estate of Richard W. Sears, mail order house founder.

The suits will be acted upon some time in the next three weeks as the supreme court will hold its session until the last week in this month.

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