

**The Business Situation**

One of a series of especially prepared articles surveying general business conditions.

It is customary for some pessimists, in speaking of the business outlook, to say that the United States can not be prosperous until Europe recovers its normal condition. As it will be some years before Europe recovers pre-war prosperity, that makes the situation look blue to the average mechanic or business man. He feels in the grip of world wide forces which he can't improve, and in which his country as a whole can't modify very much.

Yet this point of view ignores the fact that our exports during recent years have been only about 10 per cent of our total production. Before the war they were considerably less than that. Even under the depressed conditions prevailing during the first eight months of this year, the United States exported \$3,227,000,000 worth of products. Before the war our exports for a whole year were running only about \$2,220,000,000.

Of course the recent figures look bigger because they are based on higher prices. But after price differences are allowed, the volume of exports to-day compares favorably with that existing before the war. And as our exports are only a small part of total production, we could lose a considerable fraction of them and not suffer seriously, if conditions were right at home.

It is worth while studying these figures a little, to refute the idea that this country must drag along for years without recovering its normal times, owing to bad conditions in Europe. If there are troubles in business here, they are principally due to some internal dislocation, some lack of a proper balance in our affairs, which our people should be bright

enough to study out and remedy for themselves.

An increase of foreign trade would of course start things up a good deal in this country. But Europe is buying heavily of us today so we must look nearer home for the difficulties that most impede the return of full prosperity.

**GENIUS ONLY A GERM;  
SAYS NOTED SURGEON**

London.—According to Dr. S. T. Irwin, a prominent Irish surgeon, genius is nothing more than the product of a germ that gingers up the gray matter in our brains.

The microbes of various diseases, such as tuberculosis, gastric troubles and appendicitis get into our brain-cells, kick up a shindy there and make us think bright thoughts and other things.

It is an intriguing thought that if you are healthy you cannot be clever, and genius is to illness near allied.

What a hive of microbes Shakespeare must have had. And Charlie Chaplin must be full of complaints. Look at his poor feet—all caused by the genius rioting round in his cerebellum.

The more one looks at the doctor's idea the more there seems to be in it. For example, who are the strongest and healthiest man in the world? Dempsey, Carpentier, Hackenschmidt and the Terrible Turk.

Now, it is asked, has any one of these gentlemen ever written a great play or a sonata? Of course not. Could Hackenschmidt have written Gray's "Elegy"? Why he doesn't even know the language.

As a composer Dempsey isn't worth a row of beans, even though he does occasionally put people to sleep.

Then the other end of the scale? Who are world's geniuses? Shakespeare, Titian, Botticelli, Wagner, Beethoven, Franklin and Napoleon. Cast your eye over the list and what

do you find? Every one of them has died of something or other.

Again, where does one find the oldest people, the people who live the longest. In the workhouse!

Read Farmer Kingsbury's ad on page 9. —Adv.

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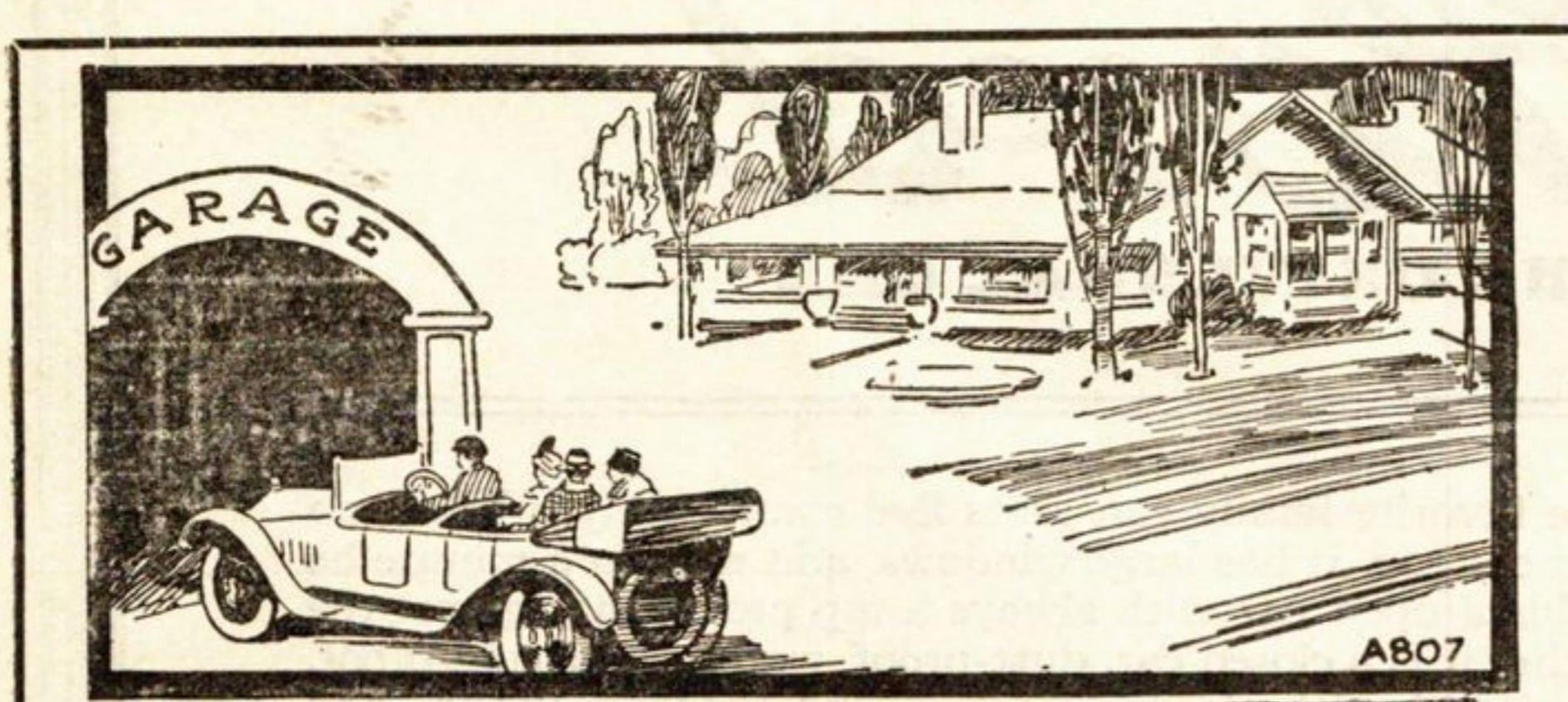
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