

## NATION LIVED WITHIN MEANS BEFORE CRASH

Immense Capacities Went  
Unutilized, Brookings  
Survey Shows.

BY DANIEL M. KIDNEY  
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, June 16.—America, as a nation, was not living beyond her means in 1929, and it was not doomed to the economic disaster that hit us.

Our economic society then lacked almost 20 per cent of living up to its means.

We had immense production capacities that were not utilized. If consumption for our full capacity had been available, a vast amount of wealth could have been distributed among the people.

These are conclusions reached, after a thorough study of the facts, by the research staff of the Brookings Institution. First of the findings are published in a volume entitled "America's Capacity to Produce."

"Certainly our findings," says the book, "do not bear out the contention of those who, in the midst of the present depression, say that we were living in a fool's paradise in 1929—that we were 'living beyond our means,' and that disaster had to follow. Individuals were, of course, living beyond their private means as individuals always will in both prosperity and depression. But the nation was not... Labor was not being so driven as to impair either health or morale. On the contrary there was nearly 20 per cent of reasonably available labor which was not turned into the productive stream. Our economic society lacked almost 20 per cent of living up to its means."

### Experts Conduct Inquiry

The investigation was conducted by Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, director of the Institute of Economics of the Brookings Institution, and five members of the staff, authorities in the fields of mining, manufacturing, transportation, agriculture, labor and finance.

They found that utilization of plant capacity could have been increased about 19 per cent in 1929, which would have absorbed the available labor and added \$15,000,000 to the national product.

Today these plants are on about a 50 per cent production basis for industry as a whole, it is estimated.

What operation at full blast in 1929 would have meant is described by the authors as follows:

"Nineteen per cent increase in the national product would have represented an added \$15,000,000,000. This would have permitted of enlarging the budgets of 15,000,000 families to the extent of \$1, each. It would have enabled us to add goods and services to an amount of \$765 on the 1929 price level to the consumer gratifications of every family having an income of \$2,500 or less in that year."

### Sales Angle Answered

"We could have produced \$608 worth of additional well being for every family up to the \$5,000 level. Or we could have brought the 16,400,000 families whose incomes were less than \$2,000 all up to that level."

That no such distribution might have been forthcoming had production reached capacity is also given.

### Columbus Grows

By Times Special  
COLUMBUS, June 16.—New city directory issued here indicates the population of Columbus has increased 1,238 since the official census was taken in 1930. The population is now 14,868. The directory publishers estimate.

### CREDIT GROUP ELECTS

Cleveland Man Named President at Los Angeles Meeting.

By United Press  
LOS ANGELES, June 16.—The National Association of Credit Men disbanded its thirty-ninth annual convention today after electing Fred Ross of Cleveland to the presidency. Other officers named at the closing session included P. M. Haight, New York, first vice-president; Forrest Walden, Salt Lake City, second vice-president, and F. J. Hopkins, Minneapolis, third vice-president.

The report details in detail with the research findings in agriculture, coal and coke, petroleum, copper, cement, manufacturing, capacity, food industries, textiles and clothing, autos and tires, paper, printing, and publishing, metal industries, machinery, and industrial equipment, transportation, merchandising, the national labor force, adequacy of money and credit.

The conclusions are based on a summary of the whole productive capacity of the nation.

They found that the margin of un-utilized plant capacity in the fields of agriculture, mining, manufacturing and electric power utilities did not expand during the period 1900 to 1930.

In a single field, namely transportation, it appears that during these three decades we created a total volume of facilities materially greater in proportion to utilization than was to be found at the beginning of the century," they concluded.

### Full Production Impossible

Difficulties of arousing a people to 100 per cent production, even under such great stimulus as war, is pointed out and the conclusion drawn:

"Taking our economic world as a practical going concern, we know the sustained operation at 100 per cent of capacity would be impossible."

What economic planning may expect to encounter also is disclosed when the researchers found:

"The demand for coal in 1929 was 200,000,000 tons smaller than might have been confidently predicted on the basis of a hundred years' experience down to 1918."

That there are 500,000 too many salesmen was another finding, which was coupled with the suggestion that they better could be used in direct production than in merchandising.

### Other findings were:

War boom metals, while peace booms the construction materials, such as cement.

### Miners Will Be Miners

That miners and oil field workers do not want to work at other jobs, whether there is an oversupply of labor in their chosen field or not. (During the 1929 peak of coal production there were 64,000 idle miners.)

The key to the problem of capacity in the oil industry is com-

## HERE'S ONE WAY OF ESCAPING SUN



## HARVARD IRKS ROOSEVELT BY ATTACKING NRA

President Cools on Alma Mater for Critical Attitude.

BY HERBERT LITTLE  
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, June 16.—The coolness between Franklin D. Roosevelt and his alma mater, Harvard, is becoming almost frigid.

Harvard has been rough on the President's policies, and the President himself hasn't been rallying around lately for Old Home Week or whatever the Cambridge boys have to welcome the old grads.

On the lighter side, the President thought it was fun the other day to help a Yale man get excused from an R. O. T. C. assignment so he could row against Harvard. He did it at request of Franklin Jr., a Harvard freshman.

"Fair Harvard"—traditionally rich and aristocratic—has been extremely critical of the whole Roosevelt program, according to a statement by John Guernsey, retail trade editor and business expert, just released through NRA.

So when they sing, "Fair Harvard, thy Sons to thy Jubilee Come," if Mr. Roosevelt's voice is not very strong, perhaps Mr. Guernsey's statement, commenting on the university's latest annual report on 1933 department store operations may explain. He said:

"Business men know that Harvard has been criticizing the administration ever since recovery began and do not take their comments seriously. Retailers will resent, however, this palpable attempt to promote their propaganda on the occasion of what is almost an official retail report."

The report said department store expenses, in spite of higher pay roll costs under NRA, were lower in 1933, and this and price increases were responsible for 1933's better business. Mr. Guernsey resented the omission of any credit for NRA.

"That retailers were right in supporting the NRA program to pay higher wages is proved by the Harvard figures themselves," he said. "They show that in spite of increased pay rates and more employment, the total pay roll cost for 450 department stores last year was actually 2 per cent less than the pay roll cost for 1932, being \$18.30 per \$100 of sales in 1933 against \$18.70 the previous year when there was no NRA and wages were substantially lower. The cost of doing business decreased 4 per cent under NRA from \$39.50 in 1932 to \$38.10 in 1933. It is still substantially higher than in 1929 due to the lower sales volume."

Mr. Guernsey also attacked the Harvard statement for calling attention to the "rising tax burden." He pointed out that the retailer can expect higher taxes from now on, and would rather have active business and higher taxes than no business and low taxes.

The internes were to begin work on the staff July 1.

Dr. Garretson was made a member of the consulting staff of the hospital. Letters of appreciation for years of faithful service were ordered sent the retiring staff doctors.

Drs. Arthur Liter, Neal D. Carter and Howard W. Terrill were named internes to take the places of those resigning.

The board reappointed Dr. Kenneth Kohlstadt as assistant superintendent at a salary of \$2,352 a year.

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