

CANADIAN BUSINESS ON UPGRADE, SAYS BABSON

He Looks For It to Improve Rapidly in 1923; Increasing In All Branches.

WELLSLEY HILLS, MASS., April 7.—Roger W. Babson has returned from his annual inspection trip, reports of which have appeared in this paper from week to week. In reviewing the trip in general, Mr. Babson stated that if anything, business is becoming too rapidly active in the United States. "Everywhere people are talking prosperity, building is booming; prices are again advancing and wages are rising," says the statistician. "A little of this is a good thing; but too much of it all at once is dangerous. When a nation recovers too rapidly, a relapse may occur. The business men of the United States need to remember the warning of that old capitalist and philosopher—King Solomon—who said that the business men of Jerusalem that pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Personally, I prefer the more gradual and deliberate manner by which Canada is passing through her readjustment. We have much to learn from our northern neighbor. Today conditions are better in the States; but unless we take care, business will be better in Canada in 1924 than it will be here.

Sturdier Canadian Conditions.
I spent some two weeks of my trip studying Canadian conditions," continued Mr. Babson, "and I am convinced that Canada is in a much better position than the United States at this time. Various factors suggest that the Dominion stands in about the same position in the economic cycle occupied by the United States six or eight months ago. If this is so we must look for Canadian business to improve rapidly during 1923. The farming situation is better and more favorable conditions prevail in trapping and breeding cattle and sheep, and in the raising of the state of the fur market and the plantings of furred animals. British Columbia is in a more prosperous position than the United States. Its farmers are better off, and the fruit-growing sections had very profitable yields. Lumber demand is expected to develop to quite sizeable proportions. The mining industry is in a fair improvement. In British Columbia business during the spring months should be good.

Canadian sales efforts during the next few months should be concentrated on the eastern provinces. The industrial communities of Ontario and Quebec look relatively the best and even in the agricultural sections, conditions are more favorable than on the prairie. Mixed farming helped to lighten the load of the eastern farmer. Industrial activity in Canada is estimated to be in the vicinity of 70% of capacity. Unemployment and idleness is still prevalent in some lines. Gold mining is an outstanding exception. This line is fairly busy and is resulting in considerable prospecting. Such centers as Fortepino and Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

Industries Most Active.
"Industries manufacturing goods for human consumption or covering the most encouraging outlook. The best customers will be found in the cities. I have in mind all of the manufacturing centers of southern Ontario and Quebec, but especially the clothing, pulp, boots and shoes, textiles, clothing and food products. In the Maritime provinces, a firm foundation is being built up for business improvement. Basic industries are now dull, but I believe that warmer weather will bring decidedly better market for lumber, fish and other local products. By summer, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia should look nearly as attractive to sales representatives as southern Ontario and Quebec.

"A more hopeful feeling is developing, however, in the prairie and other agricultural regions. Better prices for farm products are helping the Canadians as well as the farmers in the States. As the Canadian farmer was slower in feeling the good effect of this increase in prices of farm products, so, he will enjoy it longer. It seems to be a fundamental principle of economics that the Dominion lags about a year behind the States both as to action and reaction—decline and recovery. Hence, I say that while today conditions are better in the States, they may be better in Canada next year. Business conditions are much like a storm—they travel across the country in waves. Each section gets the storm; but all do not get it at the same time.

Should Be Better To Canada.
"We should be better neighbors to Canada. Some day we must turn to her for natural resources. When our timber is gone; when our water power is all developed; when the price of land here makes the raising of cattle prohibitive, we must turn to Canada. Besides, the boundary line between the two countries was never made by God—it was made by man—and it is not an unnecessary tariff wall or other barriers. Let us remember that in the long run—the prosperity of both countries is bound up together. For either to prosper, both must prosper—each must help the other. Let us be Christians in legislation as well as in name. "The Babsonchart continues to register the slight inflation to which I have already referred. Today it still stands at 5% above normal. With the readjustment only 5% completed, this is not a healthy sign. It is dangerous to raise prices or wages at the present time. Let us have capacity, but let us not have inflation. Things that have recently occurred in the stock market, the spirit of the bootleggers, and the general desire of almost every-

EMPIRE OF THE EVERGLADES

"The Great Prairie of Florida"

PROPOSED ROAD WOULD ADD MILLIONS TO VALUE OF EVERGLADES, SAYS CONNORS

Cost of Road Placed at One Million Dollars by the Man Who Intends to Build it if the Legislature Will Create a Toll Highway.



One of the two surveying parties who will survey the right-of-way for the W. J. Connors highway. The force began work at the intersection of the Connors highway and the West Palm Beach-Okeechobee road and work north along the south bank of the West Palm Beach canal, on which the Connors highway will be located. The other force will begin at Canal Point and move north to Okeechobee City, the terminus of the highway. In the large truck behind the men are their suit cases and other luggage. The automobiles conveyed them to the intersection of the two roads where they are surveying.

(By WILLIAM STUART HILL)
Within one year after the completion of the proposed W. J. Connors highway from the West Palm Beach-Okeechobee road, at the out-off canal, to Okeechobee City and Pahokee, the land served by that highway will increase in value at least \$10,000,000, W. J. Connors said recently.

"A lot of the most valuable land in the world is in the upper Everglades," Mr. Connors declared. "It can raise anything in the world, but as there is no means of transporting the produce to market, those people are without relief and will be until this road is completed." Mr. Connors added that the day a bill passes the legislature authorizing him to build and operate a toll road and the bill is signed and becomes a law, on that day the work of road building will begin. T. M. Bryann of Ft. Lauderdale, Mr. Connors said, "is practically manager of the work of construction."

Equipment for building the highway will cost, alone, \$150,000, Mr. Connors said. "It will knock a hole in \$150,000," he asserted. This equipment will include barges, tugs, loading devices, rollers, rock crushers, drill boats, tractors and other machinery. "It will be the biggest bunch of equipment ever assembled in the state," he declared.

Road to Cost \$1,000,000.
The cost of the highway, Mr. Connors told me, will be about \$1,000,000. "We are going to try to get it done for that sum," he added.

"When that highway is completely finished that district will be increased by \$10,000,000," he asserted.

Mr. Connors touched on the possibility that the cost of living will be reduced in West Palm Beach and other coast towns when the Everglades land is opened to settlement and an adequate means of getting something for nothing are not healthy signs here in the States. We need more character and less speculation at the moment. It, of course, is true that men make values," concluded Mr. Babson, "but let us not forget that souls make men."

cut-off canal, to Okeechobee City. There will also be a spur from Canal Point to Pahokee.

Rock will be laid to a depth of nine inches to three feet. The road, Mr. Connors declared, will be 18 feet wide at the top and be surfaced with oil macadam. "I shall try to build the best road in the state," said he.

When I called on him at his office in West Palm Beach, Mr. Connors was busy discussing machinery with his chief engineer. He considered the merits of various types of such devices as will be used in building the proposed highway, but quite willingly laid aside catalogues and blue prints to talk about the Everglades and the benefits he purposes to confer on the inhabitants of the Lake country.

There is no more enthusiastic booster for the Everglades than Mr. Connors. He repeatedly declared that the Everglades land is the "best in the world."

Highlands County to Build.
He said he has been informed that Highlands county has sold road bonds aggregating \$200,000 and is about to build a highway to connect with the one he, Mr. Connors, will build, at Okeechobee City. The Highlands county road, it is agreed, Mr. Connors asserted, will be completed by the time his highway is finished and extend from Okeechobee City to Kissimmee.

Mr. Connors was quite confident that there will be no hitch in the actual work of construction, for he declared, "we will build it by December 1st."

Although claiming Buffalo, N. Y., as his home, Mr. Connors has a winter home at Palm Beach and is heavily interested in the Everglades. Besides his holdings in the vicinity of Canal Point, where he operates a large farm, he has recently acquired options on

some 31,000 acres of land in the Everglades, including all of the unsold lots in Okeechobee City.

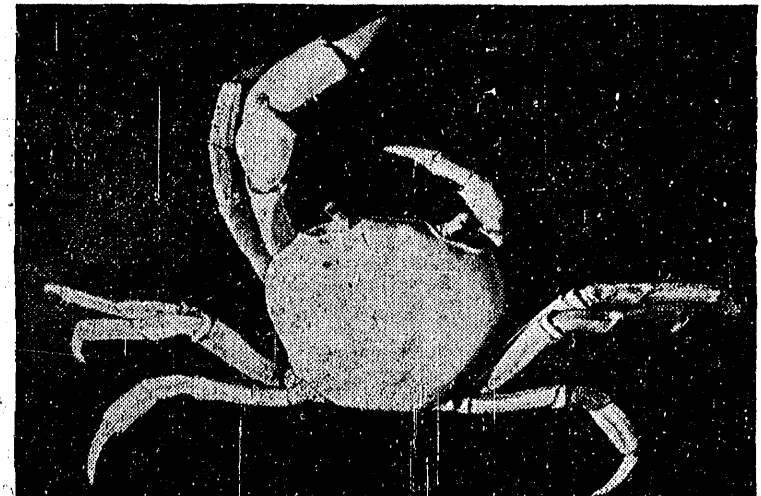
With reference to his plans for the development of industries at Okeechobee City, Mr. Connors declared, "I propose to do everything possible to make Okeechobee City a progressive city."

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With reference to his plans for the

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(Signed) J. S. Rainey, Agent in Charge, DADE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

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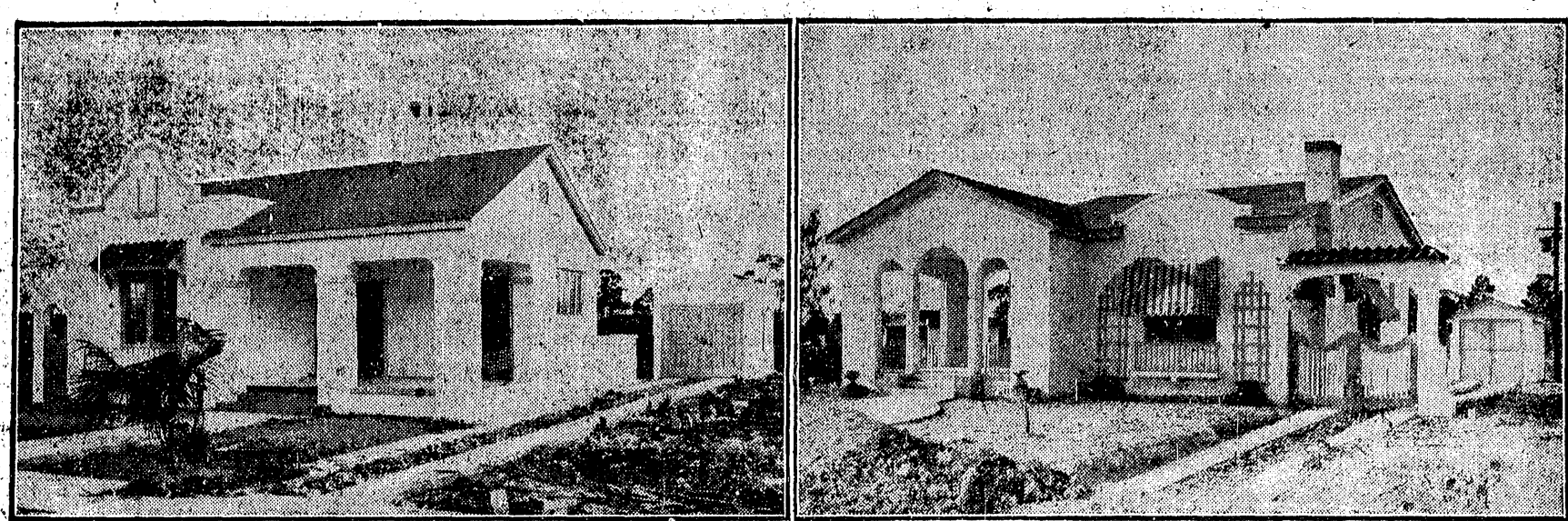
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