

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

(By The Associated Negro Press.)

The Employment Outlook.

According to the October bulletin on economic conditions, issued by The National City Bank of New York, leading industrialists of the country do not now look for a definite business revival before the spring of next year. Unemployment decreased among the memberships of the American Federation of Labor from 22 per cent to 21 per cent during the month of August but this gain is due to a seasonal advance in the demand for labor.

There has been a steady movement of goods from retail outlets into consumption for some time but the reserves of the manufacturers are still relatively large. Until these surplus goods move into consumption, there cannot be any large demand for labor in the manufacturing industries.

Another factor which tends to hold up a definite revival at this time is due to a great falling off in the yearly sale of automobiles and the demand for other steel products. Inasmuch as these industries employ considerable Negro labor, there is little hope for increased employment in this field until general business conditions show a substantial improvement.

A report of economic conditions among the Negro population of Southern states by Lorenzo Green of the Foundation for the Study of Negro Life and History indicates that employment conditions there are becoming more and more critical. Throughout the South white workers are seeking and filling the jobs formerly held exclusively by colored people, because of the general hard times brought about by the current business depression.

Negro workers are, therefore, losing ground in the skilled trades, semi-skilled occupations and personal service occupations.

The boll weevil and drought have driven many Negro farm owners and tenants into the towns and cities, thus aggravating the urban employment problem. In the Southwest Mexican labor has supplanted much Negro labor in cottonfields and on

the railroads. As winter nears, it becomes increasingly important that those Negroes who have jobs should make every effort to keep them and that those who are without employment should strain every nerve to find work and, once employed, so increase their efficiency as to become indispensable to the employer.

Norfolk, Va.—According to a report compiled by M. Conrad Martin, cashier of the Danville, (Va.) Savings Bank and Trust Company, Virginia ranks first among the states of the nation in Negro banking. Of the total of twenty-five banks operating, seven are located in Virginia. The total capital of these seven banks is listed as \$337,000, surplus and undivided profits \$129,000, and deposits of \$1,658,000. The total resources and liabilities of these banks are \$2,210,000. Banks are located in Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond, Staunton, Danville, and Suffolk. Richmond has two.

Boston—Arthur W. Reed of this city has invented a new type of auto brake. He has been demonstrating in New York City during the past few weeks and has attracted the attention of the leading auto brake manufacturers and it is reported he has received several flattering offers. Instead of using compressed air, gas from the compression stroke of the motor is used. This locks the wheel instantly.

Mr. Reed has been working on this invention for the past six years and claims that it can be used to increase the horsepower of a motor.

Chicago—A group of men and women who set out to organize the Illinois Embalmers' Association, "to standardize the profession of embalming and funeral directing," elected the following officers: Sherman Saxon, president; S. L. Minor, vice-president; Miss Catherine Thompson, second vice-president; Robert S. Alsop, treasurer; Miss M. A. Middleton, recording secretary; Theodore R. Hawes, corresponding secretary.

Clark B. Waterford heads the membership committee.

Chicago—The Miniature News, a quarter sized newspaper, made its bow to the Chicago public September 24, and it brings the total of weeklies in the city to six.

The newcomer to local journalistic circles is edited by Cora Ball Moten well known fiction writer. James Berry is general manager, Earl Morris, city editor; Lee Foster, managing editor, and Billu Horton, advertising manager.

Washington — The Prudential Bank, located on Florida avenue, near Seventh street, opened its fall campaign for new business on October 1, it was announced by Edward Baker, cashier, last week. The Prudential, of which Dr. John R. Hawkins is president, during the past year increased its paid-in capital by \$10,000. It has resources of over \$500,000, and is under government supervision. The drive, which will consist of reviving inactive accounts and soliciting new business, will last for three months.