

any year are substantially in excess of the conditions experienced during the previous thirty-five years.

You will note this condition of great wind movement and high wind velocities occurred during the terms in which Mayor Hylan served the city of New York and while it may not be put forth as a scientific deduction that this caused the conditions noted, it certainly is a strange coincidence.

It is assumed that from this year on these particular curves will recede and in a few years we will be back to normalcy. There is nothing to indicate that these conditions are to continue and grow worse indefinitely.

Chart No. 4 gives the mean winter temperature for every winter beginning with 1875 and ending with 1924 and also the mean average temperature for that entire period, and the mean temperature for each five year period. There is a considerable regularity to the fluctuations of temperature during the whole period and, while we may run along for a few years with a temperature above the average, it is constantly being balanced by a drop below the line.

The average layman has not the slightest conception of what winter temperature means and he is more inclined to be influenced by maximum and minimum temperatures than by average tem-

peratures. If you were to tell him that the mean average temperature for the month of January, over a period of fifty years, is 30.8 degrees and, for February, 30.6 degrees, he would think that you were "spoofing" him, because he firmly believes that the average temperature for these months must be around zero.

Chart No. 5 will prove that these maximums and minimums do not vary so widely from year to year and, for genuinely cold weather, no year in the past fifty years was quite as bitter as the year 1917-1918. I wonder how some of the old timers are going to laugh that off.

Even if they do hark back to '88 with its heavy snow fall the fact is that the average temperature for that year was reasonably mild and never dropped to zero during the entire season.

Chart No. 6 shows the mean temperature for the month of February, which is the coldest month of the year, and here, again, the variations will bear out the argument that the weather is not so very different from that which prevailed when Dad was a boy and that the trouble with some of the old timers conforms with Josh Billings' observations that it is not that they are ignorant but that they know too much that ain't so.

(Mr. Driscoll is indebted to R. A. Neuschotz, of his office, for collecting and arranging the valuable and important charts that form part of this article.)

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## Commerce Yearbook

**W**HILE the Commerce Yearbook 1924 may not appeal to those who like jazz in their literature it will be of use to those of our readers who would like an accurate but condensed picture of economic United States in 1924.

The book was compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and covers the various fields of activities of our business world. There are 27 pages devoted to construction materials and 17 pages to the construction industry with other chapters on coal, gas, oils which

touch closely the heating industry. Index figures and graphs show the progress of the business cycle in these different fields.

Unfortunately all these government statistics are too old to serve as a guide for today. The business world has moved on since December 31, 1924. The book does, however, provide information from which we can build our scales to measure present movements in production and sales and give us, through comparisons, some more comprehensive knowledge of what is happening today.

The book is sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.