

rising prices, instead of discouraging buying, greatly augmented it. The upswing of prices between 1900 and 1915 was accompanied by a vastly increased business over that which prevailed in the dull and sluggish 'nineties. It is true, of course, that those who lamented the high cost of living of those pre-war years were to learn that they had passed through tame experiences compared to what the hectic years of the World War and after were to bring.

With some alleviation of the wrongs and injustices that had come with the expansion of business and industry, the American people could feel, in 1915, that the world had entered a new age. I suppose that Hoosiers were about as hopeful and happy in that year as they had ever been. With more and more modernized homes, an ever-expanding and more expensive educational system, easier access to literature and books, better roads and transportation, why should not blessings continue to shower upon them? Were the currents running true in 1915? Was there a real justification for the happiness and hopes of that year, now one-fourth of a century behind us? Was it the World War which began in 1914 and ended in 1918 that deflected the currents, brought the delusions of the gilded age that followed, the business disaster that came in its wake, and the new world conflict of today? If so, when shall the true path of progress be discovered again? One thing is certain—mankind cannot discover or re-discover that path too soon.

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