



1—Mayor Gitten of Newark supervising the sale by the municipality to the public of provisions bought from the government. 2—The U. S. S. first German submarine to enter the Mississippi, in dry dock at New Orleans for minor repairs. 3—First photograph of the "million dollar fire" at Colombry-les-Belles, France, when junked airplanes and other material were burned.

### NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

#### President Addresses Congress on Cost of Living and the Possible Remedies.

#### PACKERS TO BE PROSECUTED

#### General Campaign is Started Against Profiteers—Railway Unions Demand More Pay, Urge the Plumb Plan and Threaten to Strike.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The open season for profiteers has come. If there is a bright spot in the world's sky, that is it. For the rest the clouds are black enough to suit the most confirmed pessimist.

Government officials, investigating bodies, individual economists—all have been earnestly seeking for the prime causes of the high cost of living. The cold-blooded, greedy profiteer who batters on the misfortunes of the people is the most easily discerned of those causes and is going to be the first to be dealt with. All the sympathy he gets must come from himself.

President Wilson appeared before congress Friday and delivered a scholarly essay on the subject, which included various recommendations for legislative action, and told what the government already is doing in the way of curbing the operations of the profiteers. He urged the permanent extension of the food control act, a law regulating cold storage, a law requiring that all goods entering interstate shipment be marked with the producers' price, prompt enactment of the pending capital issues bill, and, what seems to the writer most important of all, the passage of a law requiring federal licensing of all corporations engaged in interstate commerce.

The president did not overlook the opportunity to push the immediate ratification of the peace treaty and league covenant. He devoted much of his message to assertions, in varied form, that until peace is established only provisional and makeshift results can be accomplished in the way of reducing living costs. There can be no settled conditions anywhere in the world, he declared, until the treaty is out of the way. Such views did not meet with the approval of most of the Republican congressmen, and their indignation was aroused by the fact that the president used the domestic issue as a weapon in the contest over the League of Nations.

Most prominent of the alleged profiteers are the Chicago packers, the "big five" who are reputed to control much of the world's food supplies. Some time ago they were investigated by the federal trade commission and that body made a report that was bitterly attacked by the defenders of the packers. Now with that report as a basis President Wilson has directed the department of justice to institute at once civil and criminal proceedings against the big five. The attorney general stated that he was satisfied the evidence developed indicated a clear violation of the anti-trust laws, and that Isador J. Kresel of New York was in charge of the prosecution. The packers are to be accused of unfairly and illegally using their power to manipulate live stock markets, to restrict interstate and international supplies of foods, to control the prices of dressed meats and other foods, to defraud both the producers and the consumers of foods, to crush competition, to secure special privileges from railroads, stock yards companies and municipalities, and to profiteer. The department of justice will proceed against them not only for violation of the anti-trust laws but also under the provisions of the food law of 1918 against the hoarding of food.

As for the heads of the big packing companies, some of them profess to welcome the legal action as giving them a chance to demonstrate to the public their innocence, harmlessness and helplessness, and all of them repeat their oft heard protestations that they are

the victims of economic conditions beyond anybody's control. Their assertions that they make an almost infinitesimal profit and often operate at a loss do not seem to make much impression on either the public or the agencies of justice. That their statements are not always ingenious is indicated by the following assertion of the "commercial research department" of one of the big five:

"The general high price level is not due to manipulation. This is shown by a recent report of the war industries board, which proves that prices in other countries of the world have risen as much as or more than they have in the United States, and that this has been true even in countries relatively unaffected by war conditions, such as Japan and Australia."

The truth is that Australia is glutted with food products and its people are struggling to keep prices up to a profitable level. Also, while there was a big advance in the prices of Japan's chief food, rice, it was admittedly due to the manipulations of hoarders and profiteers and was the cause of riots and of government action.

The sugar situation is confusing and statements are as conflicting as those relating to the packing industry. However the government believes the sugar men also are profiteering and three officials of the Pittsburgh branch of a Chicago concern were arrested. It is asserted that scalpers have vast quantities of sugar stored away and that dealers are forced to buy where they can and pay what is asked. In this, as in the case of other food products, the accused say the government is partly to blame for shipping vast supplies to Europe and thus creating a domestic shortage. The concerted attacks by federal and local authorities caused immediate and sharp declines in the wholesale prices of many foods, but there was little evidence that the consumer was profiting by the declines, which seemed to put some of the onus on the retailers.

The federal trade commission lately has been making an inquiry into the shoe business, and has informed congress that the high prices of shoes are due to the unprecedented and unjustified profits taken by the slaughterers, tanners, manufacturers and dealers. Here, again, the packers are hit, for they are charged with causing an unwarranted increase in the price of hides, the supply of which they are said to control.

Following up the memorandum of the locomotive engineers presented to the president, fourteen railroad unions acting as a unit handed to Director General Hines a demand for wage increases with a general program designed to meet the present crisis, involving the threat of a general railroad strike. They ask that congress appropriate the money to provide increased pay and that the proper rate-making body then determine what increases if any should be made in rates.

"Any permanent solution of the railroad problem must necessarily remove the element of returns to capital as the sole purpose of operation," say the unions, and so the director general is asked to recommend to President Wilson that he try to obtain the passage by congress of the so-called Plumb plan. This plan, in eliminating private capital from the railroads, not only proposes but demands that the present private owners be reimbursed with government bonds for "every honest dollar that they have invested"; that the public, the operating managements, and labor share equally in corporations to take over the railroads, and that in all revenues in excess of the guarantee to private capital the operators and employees share one-half, "either by increasing the means for service without increasing fixed charges or by reducing the cost of the service which the machinery then in service."

The union leaders say that if the Plumb plan is rejected they will start a campaign both in and out of congress that will compel its adoption, and they declare frankly that it is their hope that it will lead to the nationalization of all other basic industries. Senator Thomas of Colorado denounced the demands of the rail workers as near-treason, and other members of congress shared his opinion, though they were less outspoken.

Already the railroads of the country are greatly hampered by the strike of the shop workers. This was not authorized by the national unions, and it began to collapse when the president told the men their demands would not be considered until they resumed work.

Both England and France are handling their tremendous labor difficulties fairly well. In the former the strike of city policemen seems to be a failure, though in Liverpool it was accompanied by serious rioting. In France the workers have sensibly agreed to postpone all strikes for six months and meantime they will join with the employers and the government in earnest efforts to solve the problems of wages and prices to stimulate greater production, which alone, it is believed, can save their country from economic disaster. It would be an unmeasurable blessing if some of the common sense that has moved the French laborers to keep up production could be instilled in the American workers so they might realize that in cutting off production they are cutting their own throats.

Chicago's race war, which at bottom was largely industrial and partly political, practically came to an end, and on Thursday more than 3,000 colored employees of the packing houses returned to work. As they walked in, a large number of white employees laid down their tools and quit, some of them because most of the colored workers are nonunion and others because they objected to laboring under police and military protection.

After Bela Kun and his communist government of Hungary quit and made way for the Socialists things moved rapidly in Budapest. The Roumanian army, which had routed the Hungarian Red troops, advanced to the city and occupied it, and Roumania issued an ultimatum to Hungary which was not countenanced by the allied peace council. Therefore French and American troops were sent to Budapest and assumed control and the Roumanians were told they must get out. Next the socialist government was overthrown and its members arrested and Archduke Joseph assumed power with the title of governor of the state. He was supported by the entente mission in the city and announced he would form a coalition cabinet with Stephen Friedrich as premier.

The Austrian peace delegates made their counter-proposals to the treaty terms submitted by the allies. These were unexpectedly mild and the complaints of the Austrians are almost pathetic. They assert that too much territory is taken from their country, citing especially the Tyrol and southern Bohemia, and say the war debt loaded on them is so heavy they are not sure the Austrian people can exist under such conditions.

Japan, through Foreign Minister Uchida, promises to restore Shantung to China on conclusion of arrangements with the Peking government to carry out the pledge given in the agreement of 1915. President Wilson, however, now reveals the fact that the Japanese peace delegates gave substantially the same promise in the inter-allied conference of April 30 without any reference to the agreement of 1915. The president believes the Japanese statement clears up the doubt about the Shantung affair. Secretary of State Lansing told the senate foreign relations committee that China had never protested to the president against the Shantung settlement by the allied peace council; that the clause was accepted by the decision of the president and that he, Mr. Lansing, did not believe it was needed to obtain Japan's adherence to the League of Nations.

Secretary of War Baker has presented to the house and senate committees on military affairs the administration bill for a permanent military policy. It calls for a regular army with a peace strength of 510,000 and a war strength of 1,250,000, the reserves to be provided through a modified form of the selective service act. Included is a system of military training of three months for all eligible youths in their nineteenth year. This feature may gain for the bill the support of the advocates of universal military training.

### NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE IN NEBRASKA

The apportionment of school funds to the different counties of the state has been completed at the office of State Superintendent Clemmons and shows that 382,994 school children will receive a total of \$571,355, or about \$1.19 per pupil. This will give Douglas county \$51,865.11; Lancaster, \$27,495; Custer, \$13,694.03; Buffalo, \$10,468.37; Gage, \$13,294.31; Knox, \$10,145.71; Platte, \$10,525.77. All other counties receive less than \$10,000, Hooker receiving the least, \$550.

Many Nebraska towns are mourning the death of Andrew Carnegie, who died very suddenly at Lenox, Mass. Of the 3,000 public libraries donated to cities and towns of the United States by Mr. Carnegie, Nebraska has many of them, and the famous philanthropist, who was 84 years old at his death, will long be remembered by people of this state.

Considerable excitement prevailed in the city council chamber at Omaha the other day when testimony submitted by witnesses proved that no less than nineteen cars of fruit and vegetables were permitted by merchants of the city to stand in the railroad yards and become rotten. Drastic action against the guilty parties is expected.

Mrs. Charles H. Dietrich of Hastings, president of the Nebraska Suffrage association, has received a letter from Attorney General Davis in which he stated that Nebraska women cannot vote at the primary elections to choose candidates for the constitutional convention. The suffrage association had asked for an official ruling.

The State Board of Agriculture estimated that the total production of winter wheat in Nebraska this year at 49,000,000 bushels, as compared to 33,470,000 in 1918; spring wheat, 7,246,000 as against 0,663,000 bushels last year, and all wheat, 56,246,000 bushels as compared with 43,141,000 bushels in 1918.

State Engineer Johnson now has the approval of the federal government of a lease agreed upon by county officers and the Union Pacific railway regarding the use of railroad right of way as a site for a portion of the Lincoln highway in Nebraska.

Department of Justice agents are reporting regularly to Washington cases of food profiteering and hoarding in Nebraska, according to officials of that branch of the government located at Omaha.

Based on August 1 conditions the State Board of Agriculture estimates that Nebraska's 1919 corn production will total 174,830,000 bushels. Last year's crop totalled 123,086,000 bushels.

U. G. Powell, who has been rate expert for the state railway commission since its organization twelve years ago, has handed in his resignation to take effect September 1.

The Nebraska soldiers welcome committee at the Nebraska headquarters at New York City, will probably bring its activities to a close about September 1.

Contract has been let for the construction of a new gymnasium building at the Chadron Normal School. The structure will cost \$100,300.

Government reports reaching the State Board of Horticulture at Lincoln indicate that prices of potatoes will increase soon.

The new Farmers' Union Co-Operative elevator at Beatrice, built at a cost of \$15,000, will be ready for business in a few days.

The balance in the state treasury at the end of July was \$2,676,288.41, a decrease of \$14,026.01 compared to the June balance.

Nebraska, since the first of the year, has had 450 fires, entailing a loss of six lives and \$471,914.61. Omaha had 219 of the fires.

An attempt to hold a non-partisan league meeting at Beatrice resulted in the formation of a mob estimated at 300, which broke up the gathering, mobbed and slugged several persons, one a league official, and threatened, it is said, to throw all the leaguers into the Blue river. The excitement lasted several hours and caused the leaguers to make a hasty exit from the city.

The Nebraska Rural Letter Carriers, during its convention at Kearney, decided to ask the government for a minimum salary of \$1,500 per year. They also want the government to maintain their equipment, car or horse. At present the carriers get a maximum wage of \$1,500 a year, and out of this pay must keep up their transportation means.

Fire, believed to have started from a candle in a Catholic church during services, virtually wiped out the entire business section of the village of Davy, 12 miles north of Lincoln. The church, two general stores, drug store, postoffice and telephone building were completely destroyed. The loss is placed at \$100,000.

Any person who has knowledge of food profiteering and can produce the evidence of such acts, can bring the attention of the matter to Secretary of Agriculture Leo Sturtevant at the state house at Lincoln, and an investigation will be made. This is the information given out by the department.

The state board of control has ordered the discontinuance of the broom factory at the state penitentiary at Lincoln, following a protest from twenty-two broom manufacturers that the state was doing the work for less than half what it would cost by free labor.

The application for an appeal from the holding of Judge Morning of the Lancaster district court that the referendum petitions against the code law were invalid, was overruled by the judge and the case will now go to the supreme court on appeal by the referendum people.

State Engineer Johnson announced at Lincoln that he induced the War department to give the state \$500,000 more in road building equipment in addition to the \$3,000,000 already furnished, while in Washington recently.

The University of Nebraska will, as usual, make an exhibit at the state fair at Lincoln. The exhibition this year will be shown in the old poultry building, which is the second door north of the fisheries.

State Engineer Johnson has let a contract for six miles of concrete road from Fremont to Ames. The pavement will be laid eighteen feet wide and will cost approximately \$200,000.

Douglas county delegates to the constitutional convention will be chosen at the general election Nov. 4, as the number of filings was insufficient to hold a primary Sept. 16.

Correspondence study work is being extended by the University of Nebraska until the department has an enrollment that will pass the 300 mark by September 1.

C. A. Fulmer, state director of federal vocational aid, was elected president of the Nebraska conference of the Epworth league at the state convention at Lincoln.

An effort is being made to enlarge the facilities of the Auburn municipal light plant so it can furnish commercial light and power.

Reports reaching the secretary of state at Lincoln indicate that about 250 candidates filed for the nomination to the constitutional convention.

Frank Gessel, 28, champion swimmer of Lincoln county, was drowned in a bathing pool at North Platte. He was seized with cramps.

York county has decided to employ a county engineer. The new official will commence work Sept. 1 at a salary of \$3,000 annually.

Kearney city school teachers have been given a flat increase in pay amounting to fifteen dollars for grades and ten dollars for high teachers monthly.

### IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (Copyright, 1919, Western Newspaper Union)

#### LESSON FOR AUGUST 24

#### JESUS ANSWERING THE LAWYER.

LESSON TEXT—Luke 10:25-37. GOLDEN TEXT—As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.—Gal. 6:10. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Gal. 6:2, 9, 10; James 2:14-15. PRIMARY TOPIC—Showing kindness to others. JUNIOR TOPIC—Helping the needy. INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—Our responsibility for the welfare of others. SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—The Christian ideal of brotherhood.

The subject chosen by the lesson committee for today, based upon this text, is "Social Responsibility." When we consider the real meaning of the text it is hard to understand why the committee chose such a subject. However, let us with open minds and hearts study the text, for it is of great importance. Christ's object was to lead the lawyer (theological professor) to understand the need of God.

#### I. Eternal Life Through Obedience to the Law (vv. 25-28).

1. The lawyer's question (v. 25). The "lawyer" was one who expounded the Mosaic law. The nearest position corresponding thereto in modern life is the theological professor. His question was not an effort to ascertain the truth, but to entrap Jesus. He not only had a wrong motive, but a defective theology. He thought that eternal life could be secured by doing—obedience. He did not know that "doing" meant keeping the law in its minutest parts, which is an utter impossibility for fallen men; that failure to measure up to the least demand of the law exposed him to the curse of God (Gal. 3:10).

2. The lawyer answering his own question (v. 27). Christ's counter-question sent him to the law, of which he gave a fine summary. Supreme love to God and love to one's neighbor as to ourselves is the whole of man's duty. It is true as Jesus said: "This do and thou shalt live" (v. 28). But no one has ever kept the law. "There is none righteous, no not one" (Rom. 3:10). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (Rom. 3:20). "By the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20).

#### II. Being a Neighbor (vv. 29-37).

1. The lawyer's question (v. 29). He evidently keenly felt the force of Christ's argument, for he sought to justify himself by asking, "Who is my neighbor?" This inquiry betrays his lack of that love which is the fulfillment of the law (Rom. 13:10). Love never inquires as to whom to love, but "Where is some one who needs my love?" Christ convicted him on his own grounds.

2. Jesus' answer (vv. 30-37). He answered by a parable in which a certain man fell among thieves on his way to Jericho and was severely wounded. While in this helpless condition a priest passed by, not even coming near; also a Levite, who was interested enough to look on him, but not enough to help him. Finally a Samaritan came where the wounded man was and, moved by compassion for him, bound up his wounds and brought him on his own beast to the inn, where he was cared for at the Samaritan's expense. In reply to Jesus' question the lawyer declared that the Samaritan was neighbor to the unfortunate man; and Jesus commanded him to go and do likewise (v. 37). By this Jesus showed him that the important question is not, "Who is my neighbor?" but "Whose neighbor am I?" Jesus came seeking those to whom he could be neighbor. Those who have his Spirit will be trying to be neighbors instead of hunting neighbors.

Those who love God supremely will, as they pass along the highways of life, minister to the broken and wounded souls in the spirit of a neighbor's love, regardless of nationality, religion, character or color. May we hear the voice of Jesus saying, "Go and do thou likewise."

The Erring Soul. The little I have seen in the world teaches me to look upon the errors of others in sorrow, not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptations it has passed through, the brief pulsations of joy, the feverish inquietude of hope and fear, the pressure of want, the desertion of friends, I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow man with Him from whose hand it came.—Longfellow.

Serving God. To do good and to serve God are materially the same, and the service of God is the imitation of him.—Benjamin Whichcote.

Daily Thought. There are no crown wearers in heaven who were not cross bearers here below.—Spurgeon.

Work Cheerfully. Do your work cheerfully, heartily and be ever prepared for the place farther up.—E. H. Naylor.