

WILL LOOK OVER THE NEW SYSTEM

THE GUARANTEE AGAINST PRICE DECLINE DRAWS MANY PROTESTS.

MANY LETTERS ARE SENT OUT

Federal Commission to Sound Out Business, Labor and Public Generally as to Views on Plan of Manufacturers and Wholesalers.

Washington, D. C.—Business interests, labor unions and the public generally are to be sounded out as to the sentiment in regard to the guarantee-against-price-decline system said to be in use by many manufacturers and wholesalers in the sale of goods. The federal trade commission announced that it had sent out several thousand letters inquiring as to the plan.

The guarantee amounts to a guarantee by manufacturers and wholesalers in selling goods that should a decline in price occur before delivery of the goods buyers shall benefit by the decline, but if the market should rise before delivery the manufacturer or wholesaler would assume the loss.

Complaints lodged with the commission assert that working out of the plan tends to prevent a decrease in the cost of living.

Text of the Letter.

The commission in a letter to boards of trade, civic bodies, trade organs and papers, labor groups and farmers' associations says:

"The question of guarantee against the decline of price has been the subject of so many complaints before the commission, and opinion seems to be so diverse, that the commission has determined to go into the whole matter thoroughly.

"As a basis for the necessary information attendant upon such an inquiry, formal complaints have been issued presenting various phases of the subject. The commission investigating producers, manufacturers, wholesale and retail dealers and consumers are urged to declare their interest so that the commission may know what party has been represented.

"The committee is asking you, therefore, to communicate as speedily and as widely as possible with your membership advising them of the invitation and to notify the commission of the nature of their interest in the subject.

To Invite Opinions.

"As soon as this list of the parties at interest in the matter can be compiled it is the purpose of the commission to invite each or any of them to submit his observations in writing. "A reasonable time limit for the filing of written statements will be given after which they will be assembled and as far as possible classified and each correspondent will be furnished with a copy of the document.

"As soon thereafter as it is possible it is the purpose of the commission to call a general hearing at Washington, at which parties at interest may be present in person, by representatives or by counsel and an orderly method for hearing the matter will be laid out."

The proposed hearing, probably will be held about the middle of March.

POISON WHISKY KILLS MANY.

The List of Wood Alcohol Victims is Growing Hourly.

New York.—Seventy-one persons have died during the past forty-eight hours and scores of others are suffering from paralysis and blindness due to drinking wood alcohol "whisky," according to reports received from seven eastern cities and Chicago.

The toll of poisonous liquor is the highest in New England, where sixty deaths are recorded. Two women at Chicopee Falls, Mass., and one at Springfield, Mass., are included in the list.

In connection with the New England deaths and five reported in New York city, police, internal revenue officers and agents of the department of justice are seeking Adolph Parnell, importer and commission merchant, of this city, who they assert sold twelve barrels of the poisonous liquor. The police charge that the "whisky" was concocted in Parnell's store in Bleeker street.

In Chicopee, Mass., thirty-four men and two women died; in Springfield, three men and one woman; Holyoke, six men, and in Greenfield, Mass., one man. In Hartford, Conn., thirteen persons died of the poisoning.

Chicago reported four deaths from the drinking of poisonous beverages. Two deaths were announced at Newark, N. J., by the police.

Admit Murder of Maid.

Newark, N. J.—Frank Kelly and Emma Robinson, both negroes, of Brooklyn, arrested here on suspicion of having been connected with the murder of Catherine Dunn, a housemaid employed at the home of Clarence S. Clark, in Brooklyn, have confessed to the crime. District Attorney Lewis, of Kings county, announced. He said that he would ask the grand jury to return indictments charging Kelly with murder in the first degree and the Robinson woman with being an accessory.

THE HAND STRETCHED TOWARD THE WEST



WHY U. S. OUSTS REDS ALEX. HOWAT FREED

WASHINGTON TELLS FOREIGN NATIONS OF REASONS.

State Department Asks Safe Conduct For Aliens Who Are Now on Way Back to Soviet Russia.

Washington, Dec. 25.—An explanation of the deportation of the 249 radical Russians on the transport Buford was cabled by the state department to "various foreign capitals."

The message said precaution had been taken "to request for them safe-conduct and humane treatment at the hands of the authorities under whose jurisdiction they will pass en route to soviet Russia."

Conditions found on its arrival in Europe and future orders which may be given while it is en route will govern the destination of the transport with its cargo of deported radicals, Anthony Caminetti, commissioner general of immigration, said.

"It is, of course, intended to deliver the deportees to soviet Russia," the commissioner added.

The department's message follows: "There are being deported from the United States to soviet Russia about 250 citizens of Russia who are undesirable here. These persons, while enjoying the hospitality of this country, have conducted themselves in a most obnoxious manner, and while enjoying the benefits of living under the protection of this government have plotted its overthrow.

"They are a menace to law and order. They hold theories which are antagonistic to the orderly processes of modern civilization. They have indulged in practices which tend to subvert the rights which the Constitution of the United States guarantees to its citizens.

"They are arrayed in opposition to government, to decency, to justice. They plan to apply their destructive theories by violence in derogation of law.

"They are anarchists. They are persons of such character as to be undesirable in the United States of America and are being sent whence they came. The deportation is in accordance with the law.

"Precaution has been taken to request for them safe conduct and humane treatment at the hands of the authorities under whose jurisdiction they will pass en route to soviet Russia."

JOHN D. GIVES \$100,000,000

Rockefeller Gifts Make a Real Christmas—Schools and Health Will Benefit by Present.

New York, Dec. 27.—John D. Rockefeller has just given away \$100,000,000—the largest recorded single philanthropy in the history of the world. Half of that sum goes to the general education board, itself a Rockefeller creation, to be disbursed, both principal and interest, in co-operating with institutions of higher learning in increasing the salaries of their teaching staffs.

The other \$50,000,000 goes to the Rockefeller foundation, chartered "to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world." Of this sum \$5,000,000 in deference to a special request of the donor, is to be expended for the development and improvement of the leading medical schools of Canada.

Leaves \$1,000,000 for Distressed.

Cincinnati, Dec. 27.—The will of Jacob G. Schmidlapp, Cincinnati capitalist, who died recently in New York, leaves an estate estimated at \$1,000,000 in trust, the income to be used for the "relief of suffering and distress."

McClure Publications Sold.

New York, Dec. 27.—McClure's Magazine has been bought by Herbert Kaufman. It was announced by Frederick L. Collins, president of the company. All the stock of McClure publications went to Mr. Kaufman.

KANSAS LABOR LEADER AGREES TO TRY TO END STRIKE.

Released on Previous Bail on His Promise to Send Telegrams to the Miners.

Indianapolis, Dec. 24.—Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas district of the United Mine Workers of America, was released from the Marion county jail by United States District Judge A. B. Anderson. Howat agreed to join the international officials of the mine workers in sending telegrams to the district executive board in Kansas in an endeavor to have all the strikes in the Kansas coal mines ended.

Howat was released on his previous bail, and if the agreement is carried out in good faith, the contempt hearing, set for next Monday, probably will be continued against Howat, as in the cases of the other international and district officials of the mine workers.

The telegrams to the Kansas miners' executive body not only will ask the return of the men out on the Central Coal & Coke company strike since last July, but will order the return of the men who struck in protest against Judge Anderson's action in sending Howat to jail.

William Green, secretary-treasurer of the miners, urged Howat to agree to the plan.

SAYS VIRGO KILLED WOMAN

Mrs. Tabor Confesses to Officers of Van Buren County, Mich., That Son-in-Law is Guilty.

Lawton, Mich., Dec. 25.—Mrs. Sarah I. Tabor confessed to the authorities of Van Buren county, the truth concerning the death and burial of her daughter, Maud Tabor Virgo, in a trunk in the cellar of her home at Lawton.

Showing emotion for the first time since her arrest, the aged woman broke down at 2 a. m. and cried to Prosecutors H. H. Adams and Glenn Warner "Joe did it."

"Joe said he didn't want any brats around his house," the old lady sobbed out to Prosecutors Warner and Adams. "Joe Virgo did it; Joe and nobody else, and for three years he's dared me to tell it."

Mrs. Tabor told her story with a rush of words.

"I knew Maud was to become a mother," she said. "Joe Virgo came to the house and took Maud away in an auto the latter part of April and was gone three days. He brought her back the Saturday before the Monday, May 1, when she died."

LAUNCH LARGEST U. S. DIVER

Submarine S-16 With Cruising Range of 12,000 Miles, Takes Waves at Bridgeport.

Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 25.—Submarine S-16, the largest in the United States navy, was launched from the yard of the Lake Torpedo boat company. The sponsor was Mrs. Archibald McNeil, Jr., who broke a bottle of champagne on the nose of the craft as it slipped down the ways. The S-16 has a cruising radius of 12,000 miles, is 220 feet long, will have a speed of 12 knots an hour submerged and 15 knots on the surface.

French Loan Oversubscribed.

New York, Dec. 29.—France's national credit loan was oversubscribed on the first day, according to cable advices received here. The advice added that the oversubscription had exceeded the best hopes of the government.

Arrest in Brown Case.

Mount Clemens, Mich., Dec. 29.—Sheriff Caldwell arrested Lloyd Prevost and Mrs. Ruth Brown, who are suspected of having murdered J. Stanley Brown, the son of a deceased millionaire Detroit cigar manufacturer.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NOTES

Lincoln.—The convention adjourned following Friday's session until after the holidays, and, outside of some possible committee meetings, there will be no meetings of the members until time for reconvening on January 6. During the holiday recess delegates will mail to Secretary Barnard any proposals they wish to introduce.

Before the assembly broke up blank ballots were placed on the desks of members bearing the names of leading presidential candidates, to secure a straw vote of the convention. There were sixty-three ballots turned in, thirty-seven not voting. Some members seemed to take the ballot seriously, but not all. General Wood led, with thirty-six votes; Bryan was second, with five, while Jerry Howard, representing Douglas county and the "Irish republic," tied Senator H. Johnson of California for third place, both receiving four votes. Many other celebrities, including President Weaver of the convention, received complimentary votes.

Among the proposals before the convention is one by Byron of Franklin and Jackson of Nuckolls, which proposes a reorganizing of the civil government of the state, eliminating centralized power such as is placed in the governor's hands by the code bill. The proposal, which is attracting a great deal of attention, provides for ten departments as follows: Public welfare; public lands and buildings; labor; trade and commerce; finance; law; agriculture; public works; education; accounts; public utilities. The head of the department of public welfare would be the governor, with a salary of \$3,000 a year. The proposal would cut down the number of elective state officers to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer and auditor.

The scale of compensation fixed by the committee in charge of this feature of the convention, allows Secretary Barnard \$10 a day; two assistants \$8 a day each; stenographers and postmaster, custodian of cloak room, assistant sergeant-at-arms, mimeographer, chaplain, janitor, bill room clerks and proof readers, \$5 a day each, and the two pages, \$3 a day each.

Svoboda of Howard county has submitted a proposal which he claims will be pushed with vigor, calling for the election of state senators for a term of four years, one-half elected every two years and makes the number 34 instead of 33, as at present. It also divides the state into that number of districts. House members remain the same with terms of two years and the pay fixed at \$10 a day.

President Weaver of the convention has been informed that committees containing some of the ablest members of the convention will have very little work to do, in some instances practically none, while other committees are already swamped with work.

Members of the convention generally appear to be in favor of a resolution submitted by Davies of Boyd, which would elect supreme judges by districts and the chief justice of the supreme court by the entire state.

Abolishment of the state board of control and the state railway commission is the outstanding feature of a proposal introduced in the convention by A. H. Byrum and George Jackson.

Jury service for Nebraska women is provided for in a proposal by A. H. Byrum, Bloomington. He would also permit verdicts by less than twelve members of a jury.

The first 103 proposals introduced in the convention have been returned from the printer and were distributed to their respective committees last week for consideration.

W. H. Pitzer, Nebraska City, has submitted a proposal for a state industrial commission of labor, trade and commerce, to consist of three members appointed by the governor.

Proposals for a recall law, applicable to all elective officials, and a workable initiative and referendum law have been introduced by J. N. Norton, Polk county.

John L. Webster, president of the 1875 convention, will address the members of the convention on January 8.

The convention voted to invite W. J. Bryan, former secretary of state, to address the convention at a date to suit his convenience.

Bigelow, of Douglas county, introduced a proposal which would allow Omaha and Douglas county to consolidate their governments, in a manner to be provided by law.

The convention will be asked to authorize the state and municipalities to operate and establish public utilities and industrial enterprises whenever empowered to do so by a vote of the people.

Delegate Scott of Chase county is the father of a resolution before the convention which would abolish the indeterminate sentence law and forbid any official taking any action which would shorten the sentence of a prisoner, except the usual good time allowance.

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

State Superintendent Gemmons says Nebraska must get ready to line up with Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa for the interstate old-fashioned "spelling bee" which is to be held at Wayne, this state, in October, 1920. Every Nebraska school child in the seventh grade and under in city and eighth grade and under in rural schools is eligible. Elimination preliminaries will be held first in all counties. The state will be divided into thirteen districts, to be announced later. Each district will hold a contest, the winners of which will contest in Lincoln some time in the spring.

J. C. Cook, county attorney of Dodge county, has sent a vigorous protest to the state attorney general at Lincoln over the action of the pardon board in approving the release of Tom Calcord, Winslow bank robber, from the state penitentiary. The county attorney says that not a single Dodge county resident was consulted about the matter, and the people are highly incensed over the affair.

Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerman of Seward have donated the former home of ex-Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court T. L. Norval and 30 acres of land to the city for use as either a home for aged people or a boys' school. The property is valued at \$40,000. The gift was made as a Christmas present.

The boycott on certain high priced foods instituted by the more than 2,000 members of the Woman's club at Lincoln, is already showing results. Latest reports show that eggs have dropped from 85 to 55 cents a dozen, and some other important staples have decreased in price considerable.

A report issued by L. I. Frisbie, leader of state junior work in this state shows that 412 members of Nebraska Boys and Girls clubs, raised poultry valued at \$11,611.35 this year. The net profit was \$6,273.00. The total number of chickens raised was 12,096.

The latest state crop report shows that the average of winter wheat sown in Nebraska last autumn is 17 per cent less than that a year ago and about 5 per cent under the usual amount. The estimate is 3,093,000 acres as compared with 3,727,000 acres last year.

Although the coal strike has been called off, reports from Lincoln indicate that Nebraska is yet a long way from relief in the fuel situation. Conservation measures, practiced throughout the state, must be continued indefinitely, the reports say.

Railroads are refusing to ship hay into western Nebraska and hundreds of head of stock are dying as the result, according to a letter received by the State Railway commission at Lincoln from S. N. Stapleton, Crawford banker and ranch owner.

A movement is on foot at Lincoln to persuade the city to rebuild the cattle barn at the state fair grounds, which was recently destroyed by fire, and make the fair association a present of the building.

Athletic authorities at the University of Nebraska have already arranged football games with the following colleges for next year: Washburn, Notre Dame, Penn State, Kansas University and Michigan Aggies.

Several hundreds of dollars in prizes were distributed among members of the Webster county boys' and girls' club, at the annual show and sale at Red Cloud.

Delegates from all parts of the state are expected to attend the annual convention of the Nebraska Retail Clothiers' Association at Omaha February 4 and 5.

Assistant Adjutant General Brass of the G. A. R., at Lincoln, declares that organization suffered severely from the recent coal restrictions throughout the state.

January 7 to 9 are the dates set for the annual meeting of the county assessors of Nebraska. Lincoln is the lucky city to entertain the tax makers.

Work has begun on the construction of the new \$150,000 Keystone hotel at McCook. A Kansas City firm has the contract.

A movement is on foot at Geneva to erect an \$8,000 stock sales pavilion.

Six veteran railway locomotive engineers acted as pallbearers at the funeral of J. W. Coolidge, Union Pacific engineer, who died at Omaha following his collapse at the throttle, while his train was speeding through Valley.

School authorities at Lyons believe they have solved the teacher question. Hereafter grade teachers will receive a minimum of \$1,000 a year and a yearly increase of \$100 until a maximum of \$1,800 is reached. High school teachers will receive a minimum of \$1,200 and a yearly increase of \$100 until a maximum of \$2,200 is reached.

Valley county is advertising for bids for the new court house, the construction of which is to be started early next spring.

Governor McKelvie has appointed Judge C. E. Eldred of McCook to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of District Judge E. B. Perry of the Fourteenth district.

The Nebraska law which requires the closing of barber shops on Sunday and which prohibits the plying of the barber trade in a private way, was upheld by the state supreme court in a Douglas county case.

Twenty or more organizations, with a combined membership of many thousands of those who have to do with the raising of farm products and live stock, will hold their annual convention at Lincoln between January 19 and 24, the dates set for Organized Agriculture meetings. Negotiations are now being carried on with several noted speakers who will address the meetings. This year the farmers have many things on their minds, which it is expected will be brought up. In some respects the sessions will be as important as those held during the war. During the war the farmers were asked for a maximum production. Now they are wondering just what the future of farming will be during the next two or three years.

It is announced that any American Legion post in Nebraska can now have a women's auxiliary. State Commander Earl Cline in making this announcement stated that anyone desiring to organize an auxiliary should obtain blanks from our state headquarters at Lincoln. Membership will be limited to mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of members of the Legion, and mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of men and women who were in the service during the war.

Considerable comment was caused at South Omaha the other day over the arrival of thirty carloads of cattle sent to that market by the Crow-Indians under government supervision. The man in charge of the shipment said the Indians had very good luck in breeding cattle, and proved apt students.

Governor McKelvie sanctioned the "furlough" of Beryl Kirk, Omaha bandit, who was released some time ago from the state prison on papers signed by State Senator Bushee while acting governor, two days before the man was given his freedom, the supreme court investigating committee was told by Attorney P. Petrus Peterson of Lincoln.

Burt county's farmers' union held a lively meeting at Tekamah the other day at which the organization went on record as being in favor of the establishment by farmers' associations of sugar factories over the state in an effort to smash the sugar trust.

The eleventh annual Nebraska farmers' congress, which was to be held at Omaha in December and was postponed because of the coal shortage, will be held soon after the first of the year. O. G. Smith of Kearney, its president, announced.

Dr. Dillon, chief of the state bureau of health, has sent letters from his office at Lincoln to local health boards in Nebraska, asking their aid in seeing that all dairy herds are tested annually for tuberculosis, as required by law.

State Engineer Johnson expressed the belief, after inspecting the forty or more army trucks, owned by the state, which were damaged by fire at the State Fair grounds at Lincoln, that many of the trucks can be saved.

The Nebraska College of Agriculture at Lincoln estimates that at least 25,000 farmers of this state will keep an accurate account of expenditures and income by using the college's farm record books this year.

Thrashing small grain has been resumed with the moderation of the weather in the vicinity of Surprise where there is considerable of that kind of work yet to be done.

Oscar Hansen, Fremont's crack shot, will probably be included on the team of the ten best trapshooters to represent the United States in the Olympic games at Antwerp next summer.

Municipal bonds in the sum of \$10,000 were recently sold at Theford and arrangements are being completed for the establishment in the village of a system of waterworks.

In an effort to stamp out an epidemic of smallpox at Blue Springs schools have been ordered closed and a strict quarantine of all cases is to be kept.

Mrs. J. B. Bacon, Dawson county ranch owner, known as the "Alfalfa Queen," realized the sum of \$20,000 from a 500-acre alfalfa field this year.

Fifty farmers and business men held a meeting at Venango the other day and organized a Commercial club. A number of extensive improvements are to be made in the Y. M. C. A. headquarters at Beatrice.

The Douglas county fair, which is usually held at Omaha, will be transferred to Waterloo next year. Ex-service men of Cedar Bluffs are backing a movement to organize a post of the American Legion.

North Bend's new post of the American Legion started off with a membership of thirty.

Reports from a good many points over the state indicate that the sugar shortage is still acute in Nebraska, and dealers say that there will be no relief in sight for several months.

More than twenty-one acres of potatoes were raised by members of Boys' and Girls' clubs of Nebraska this year. One hundred and seventy-one boys and girls took part in this project, growing not less than one-eighth of an acre each. L. I. Frisbie, head of the clubs in this state, in making this announcement, says he expects greater things in 1920.

The cattle barn at the Nebraska agricultural experiment sub-station at North Platte burned December 13, causing a loss of about \$5,000.

It is rumored at Lincoln that the Des Moines club of the Western Baseball league will be transferred to the Nebraska capital next season.

Miss Nellie Williams will serve as temporary director of the state traveling library, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Charlotte Templeton. Miss Ruth Warwick of Meadow Grove has been appointed assistant to Miss Williams.