PRESIDENT ORDERS HIGH PRICE INQUIRY

Federal Trade Commission and Department of Agriculture Will Conduct It.

PRODUCTION ENDANGERED

Washington, Feb. 10 .- At the direct tion of President Wilson, the Federal Trade commission and the Department of Agriculture will begin an immediate investigation into the causes of advancing food prices in the United States, with special ref-

the United States, with special reference to alleged violations of the anti-trust acts. An emergency appropriation will be asked of congress for the inquiry.

The Trade commission made known today that it had held a conference with Agriculture department officials to work out preliminary plans for the investigation, and at the same time it made public President Wilson's request for the inquiry. An adequate food supply, a matter of concern to the nation at all times, is of peculiar importance at the present, the president declared. Despite much that has been done toward obtaining definite information concerning the supply and demand of foods, it is not yet clear, he said, what measures are necclear, he said, what measures are nec

clear, he said, what measures are nec-essary to fundamental improvements. "It is obvious," the letter asserts, "that there will be no sufficient in-centive to enlarge production if there does not exist an unobstructed and economical system of distribution. Unjustifiable fluctations in prices are Unjustifiable fluctations in prices are not merely demoralizing, they investably deter adequate production. It has been alleged that the course of trade in important food products is not free, but is restricted and controlled by artificial and illegal means. It is of the highest public concern to ascertain the truth or falsity of these allegations."

Letter of President.

Letter of President.

"An adequate supply of food products is a matter of concern to the nation at all times. It is of peculiar importance at present. Our domestic food supply is normally very large and has become increasingly varied. In some respects it has steadily expanded and has kept pace with the increasing population. Unfortunately, this is not true, however, of a large number of staple products, including certain cereals, and particularly meats.

"While the population of the nation has increased 26,000,000 since 1900, the production of the two leading cereals, corn and wheat, while tending to increase, has shown only a slight advance, and that of the meat products in the same period has shown an increase of only 3,500,000 pounds, a decrease of twenty-nine pounds per capita.

Problem of Distribution Problem of Distribution.

Problem of Distribution.

"Much can be done and is being done to change this situation through improved methods of production and through the control or eradication of plant and animal disease. But there are problems also of distribution, and, in some respects, the problems presented in this field are the more difficult. Only recently have official agencies been created to deal systematically with this side of the difficulty. Much work has been done, and, considering the limited nature of the powers under which it has been conducted, no little headway has been made, particularly in obtaining and diffusing useful information.

"Nevertheless it is not yet clear in many directions just what the nature of the difficulty is or what measures should be adopted to effect fundamental improvements. Many necessary facts are not available and it is questionable whether any single agency of the government at present possesses the requisite power and equipment to secure the information needed to enable both public and private instrumentalities to render their fullest service to the people.

Production Halted.

"It is obvious that there will be no

"Nevertheless it is not yet clear in many directions just what the nature of the difficulty is or what measures should be adopted to effect fundamental improvements. Many necessary facts are not available and it is questionable whether any single agency of the government at present possesses the requisite power and equipment to secure the information needed to enable both public and private instrumentalities to render their fullest service to the people.

Production Halted.

"It is obvious that there will be no sufficient incentive to enlarge production if there does not exist an unobstructed economical system of distribution. Unjustifiable fluctuations in price are not merely demoralizing, they inevitably deter adequate production.

"It has been alleged before cont."

Leading Fairbury Banker

price are not merely demoralizing, they inevitably deter adequate production.

"It has been alleged before committees of congress and elsewhere that the course of trade in important food products is not free, but is restricted and controlled by artificial and illegal means. It is of the highest public concern to ascertain the truth or falsity of the allegations. No business can be transacted effectively in an atmosphere of suspicion. If the allegations are well grounded, it is necessary that the nature and extent of the evils and abuses be accurately determined, so that proper remedies, legislative or administrative, may be applied. If they are not true it is equally essential that the public be informed, so that unrest and dissatisfaction may be allayed.

"In any event, because of the grave public interest which the food supply effects, the efficient performance of the duties imposed upon agencies of the government requires that all pertinent facts be ascertained. To this end the powers of such agencies should be made adequate, if in any espect they are now deficient.

Directs Inquiry.

Department to Aid.

Department to Aid. "Pursuant to the authority con-ferred upon me by the act creating the federal commission, therefore, I direct the commission, within the cope of its powers, to investigate and





report the facts relating to the pro-duction. ownership, manufacture, storage and distribution of foodstuffs and the products or byproducts aris-ing from or in connection with their ing from or in connection with their preparation and manufacture; to as-certain the facts bearing on alleged violations of the anti-trust acts, and particularly upon the questions whether there are manipulations, trusts, combinations, conspiracies or restraints of trade out of harmony with the laws or the public interest.

"I am aware that the commission has additional authority in this field through the power conferred upon it to prevent certain persons, partner-ships or corporations from using un-lair methods of competition in com-perce. I presume that you may see merce. I presume that you may see fit to exercise that authority, upon your own initiative, without direction from me.

"The Department of Agriculture has been engaged for several years in studying problems of distribution. I have noted that it has been proposed in the congress to add to the funds of the department and give it larger powers to conduct its investigations. powers to conduct its investigations. As its activities will touch phases of the problem I am calling to your attention which may not be covered by your inquiry and may furnish information of great importance for the purposes contemplated. I shall direct that departmen, to co-operate with you in this cuterprise.

you in this enterprise.

"For the adequate prosecution of the inquiry by both your commission and the Department of Agriculture, it is essential that sufficient funds be available. I accordingly request that you furnish me at the earliest possible moment an estimate for an appropriation, if one is needed, to supplement existing appropriations to enable you to successfully carry out the investigation.
"A copy of this letter is being sent."

the investigation.

"A copy of this letter is being sent to the secretary of agriculture with the direction that his department cooperate with you and with the request that he furnish an estimate for the funds needed for his department."

The secretary of agriculture, the trade commissioner announced, was asked today for a conference to arrange preliminary plans for the investigation and to make estimates for its cost.

Senator Hale of Maine is Under

cars for Villa at San Andres, of Chihuahua City, and says.

Light Wolves Are Caught
By Four Hundred Hunters

experience from the yesterday, He had keen deaire to see the tyres and his automobile to the Belgian city when a shrieking 5.9-inch shell burst a few lengths behind.

A few yards further along the automobile became stalled. When it was found the car would not budge the party sprinted for shelter as several more shells broke over them. Although little is left of Ypres but piles of brick and stone, the town remains a favorite artillery target for the Germans. It is needless to say the exploration trip was shortened.

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Leading Fairbury Banker

Is Dead of Heart Disease

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Fairbury, Neb., Feb. 10.—(Special
Telegram.)—A. M. Hungerford, vice
president of the Farmers and Merchants bank in this city, died shortly
after noon today of heart disease. He
was alone with his family and a friend
when the end came.
Mr. Hungerford was active in municipal affairs of this city and was
serving as councilman. He was a retired capitalist and was interested in
a number of enterprises here. A
brother resides in Hebron. No arrangements have been made for the
funeral, but it is assumed the Masons
will have charge of the services.

VILLA WARNS OUT OF HIS WAR ZONE

Proclamations Posted Notify ing Foreigners to Keep Out at Their Peril.

CHIEF HAS LARGE ARMY

Juarez, Mexico, Feb. 10.-Procla Juarez. Mexico, Feb. 10.—Prociamations were posted on the adobe
walls and distributed on the streets
here last night signed by Francisco
Villa, warning every one against traveling on passenger trains between
Juarez and Chihuahua City and urging foreigners of all nationalities to
teen out of porthern Mexico, ac-

ing foreigners of all nationalities to keep out of northern Mexico, ac-cording to a Carranza official here. The proclamation added that for-eigners would be given the same pro-tection as nationals, but if they were robbed or wounded during any fight-ing they would be victims of their own carelessness. own carelessness.

wn carelessness.

Twenty-five persons were arrested

Juarez following the distribution

f the hand bills, it was said, the

st including one prominent merchant

Says Villa Has Large Army. New York, Feb. 10.—General Francisco Villa with a force of 25,000 men, supported by thirty cannon, of sixty-five and seventy-five milimetres each and seventy-five machine guns, is occupying territory vacated by the forces of General Pershing and gradually advancing out they are to take

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furnish an estimate for the
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commissioner announced, was
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Fire Near Ypres

reduces of Genera. Pershing and gradfurze, according to an official communication received here today by
John J. Hawes, Villa's representative
in New York from Hipolito Villa,
brother of the leader, who is making
his headquarters in San Antonio.

The announcement gave in detail
the various units of Villa's command,
with the names of various generals
and under officers. It also stated that
a sanitary department consisting of
fifteen physicians and fifty-six nurses
has been organized with headquarters
at Bustillos, Chihuahua, and that 379
wounded officers are now receiving
treatment there. It was also said
that Villa has a transportation service
of thirty-seven locomotives and seventy box and gondola cars.

Field headquarters for Ville have
been established at San Andres, thirty
miles west of Chihuahua City, the
statement says.

Field Wolves Are Caucht



The days of Barbarous Dentistry have gone by. Come to me and have your teeth extracted or filled without the least pain by the use of Vapor Mist.

Come to the office, get some of that want to tell of my Painless Method.

Vapor Mist is a local anaesthetic, just applied to the gums, not only for Painless Extraction, but for all Dental Operations without the least danger in heart trouble or other sickness.

DR. CLARK, The Painless Dentist Office Second Floor Paxton Block 16th and Farnam Streets.

Open Sunday, 10 to 12.
d for my Booklet telling all about the Care of Teeth.
Lady Attendant.
Phone Red 1201.

MUELLER



Baby **Grand Piano**

An instrument built especially for those desiring a Grand Plane for their home, but who are restricted as to floor space. Ha tone, its action, its beauty of case design will appeal keenly to your sense of appreciation and, last, but not least, its price will convince you of the sterling value offered in this time-tested, time-honored lastrument.

\$550

Convenient payments may be arranged on the balance.

Iron-Clad Guarantee Goes With Every Instrument

OLLER & MUELLER PIANO COMPAN 1311-13 Farnam Street - - - Omaha, Nebraska

The Leading Pinne House of the West. Established 1859.

The National Capital Scottish Rite Masons Hold

Met at 11 a.m. Considered naval appropriation bill and gread to vote on it Tuesday.

Recreatry Daniels urged immediate appropriation of 1256,000 to extend coast guard chaphone lines.

Adjourned 5:50 p. m. to 11 a.m. Monday.

Mew Postmasters.

Washington, Feb. 10.— (fipedial Telegram.)—Postmasters appointed South Dekota-Polaome, Cusier comity.

Polaome, Cusier comity, Feb. 20. (Stumwarder, vice 1. Alexander, Vice 1. Alexander

Dan Tillotson Soon Back On Farnam Street Route

D. W. Tillotson, who has been sick since the last of December with typhoid pneumonia, is rapidly recovering, and will soon be out again. Mr. Tillotson is one of the veteran letter carriers, having been in the service for almost thirty years. He will be welcomed back on his route on Farrant street.

Funeral Service for Woodman

Net at 11 a. m.

Net at 11 a. m.

Not at 11 a. m.

Not at 11 a. m.

St. Andrew's Preceptor, Knights

St. Andrew's Preceptor, Knights

Kadosh, held services last night for

McCumber resolution to have secretary of

state submit the government's view on one

and limitations of submarines was referred
to foreign relations committee.

Rear consideration of postoffice appro
priation bill.

Sometic View and the cathedral venerable

Rear consideration of postoffice appro
modal and consideration nest Monday of

administration bills to deal with soplonage
and offeness saxinst the government.

Took up Porto Rican citizenship bill.

Adjourned 6:12 p. m. to 11 a. m. Monday.

Met at 11 a. m.

Mot at 11

most solemnly beautifu! rites known to Masonry. Friends of the dead man and members of the fraternity of both trites attended.

Funeral services will be held at the residence of his son, A. E. Woodman, 2223 Capitol avenue, at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Rev. T. J. Mackay, rector of All Saints' church, will officiate. The following will act as palibearers: A. P. Whitmore, Dave Christie, Harry Whitehouse, W. C. Sundblad, W. C. Lyle and William B. Whitehorn.

Mr. Woodman, who was 80 years old, died at his son's home in Omaha Thursday night after an illness of a few hours. Born in London he came to this country in 1862, becoming a United States citizen in Chicago. He went into the insurance business when he moved to Omaha, becoming associated with J. A. Lovatt and Frank Murphy.

He became a Mason in Chicago fifty-two years ago, being a charter member of Dearborn lodge there and the first member to attain the honor of half a century's standing with the Windy City lodge. Two years ago the Dearborn lodge sent fifty roses, hicles.

a letter of congratulation and a gold

At the time of his death Mr. Wood

Mary Iren Berry against the city of Aurora today returned a verdict for the defendant, finding no cause of action. They reached their decision at 1 o'clock last night. The suit was brought for \$20,000 personal damages, the plaintiff claiming to have fallen the plaintiff claiming to have fallen on the sidewalk, breaking her hip and shoulder. The case occupied the attention of the court and jury for five days. The jury deliberated over the verdict thirteen hours.

Commissioners to Modify

The Wheel Tax Ordinance The Wheel Tax Ordinance
City Commissioners Kugel, Hummel and Parks, comprising a special
committee to consider the wheel tax
ordinance, have listened to arguments
covering a wide range of views. Next
week they will submit to the city
council a modified ordinance, with a
reduced schedule. They are disposed
to consider favorably the idea of assessing motor-driven trucks on a capacity rather than a horse power
basis, and tax horses rather than vehicles.

Al Hayman, Veteran Theatrical Man, Dies

New York, Feb. 10.—Al Hayman, veteran theatrical producer and manager, died here early today at the hotel where he made his home, He was 60 years old and a native of Wheeling, W. Va. Mr. Hayman for more than thirty years was one of the dominating influences in the theatrical business of the country, having started in San Francisco in 1883. The so-called theatrical syndicate was his idea. With the late Charles Frohman, he acquired the rights to Bronsson Howard's "Shenandoah," which carned fortunes for both.

Holland Consul in Omaha Is a Possibility Now

The location of a Holland consultry vice consult in Omaha is desired y the Commercial club of Omaha. by the Commercial club of Omana.
Local delegates who attended the
convention of the National Chamber
of Commerce at Washington called
at the Netherlands legation to urge
upon the minister from Holland that
he use his influence to this end. The
Omaha delegation believes the chance
for metring such a consul here is for getting such a consul here is excellent.

Tabor Selects Debating Team.
Tabor, Ia., Feb. 10.—(Special.)—
The second tryout debate by Tabor college students to select debaters to represent this college in a debate with Graceland college at Lawrence was held in the college tuditorium Fridav evening. The winners were Miss Gail Hamil, Walter Wyant, Misses Myrtle Brown and Vivian Heath.

Neckwear Fashions For Early Spring

Monday a special showing of new neckwear is to be ready. New Georgette Collars, 50c to \$2; and new embroidered Net Collars, 75c to \$1.25, will be shown in an exceptional variety for so early in the season.

To the right as you enter.

Springtime Fabrics

NEW CREPE VOILE, one of the season's most beautiful fabrics. Very sheer, but firm and strong, insuring satisfactory wear. In all spring colors, \$2 a yard.

NEW SPORTS SILKS: Yo San is one of the most talked of sports fabrics. It's a very different kind of material and comes in beautiful

NEW PONGEES AND TUB SILKS, an excellent range of shirting fabrics; colors absolutely

Silks-Main Floor.

Valentines and Postals

Each expresses an appropriate sentiment in a distinctive manner. The pictures are most unusual and delightful.

Main Floor, Center Aiala. Third Floor, Art Needlework.

Good Silk Hose of Known Quality

PURE THREAD SILK HOSE with lisle tops and soles in black, white and colors; \$1.25 a pair. SILK TO THE TOP HOSE, in black, white and colors; lisle lined

tops, \$1.75 a pair. THE "WELCOME HOSE" of black, medium weight silk with exclusive garter welt. This and other unusual reinforcements en-ables this hose to outwest any other silk hose made; \$2.25 a pair.

St. Valentine's Day Is Candy Day

Suggestions from our large selections of highest quality, strictly fresh candies: Pecan Roll, 60e a lb.

Vanilla Nougat, 35c a lb. Nut Brittles, choice assort-ment, 50e a lb.

Basement Balcony.

New Wash Fabrics

EGYPTIAN TISSUES, the genuine Lorraine, No. 1144 Egyptian Tissues, in new spring color combinations, striped effects, checks and plaids; FAST COLORS, 30e a yard.

SWISS FACONNEE AND TIS-SUE DE NILE, in bright new styles, dotted and striped effects, 27 inches wide, 30c a yard. Basement

HOMPSON BELDEN & GO

Early Showings of Spring Things Throughout the Store

The Store for Blouses

Has for Monday A Surprisingly Excellent Showing of

Wash Blouses for Spring Priced \$2.95

These Wash Blouses are in tailored and lingerie effects; very dainty and attractive, besides being exceptionally modest in

Second Floor.

Ribbon Novelties For Infants

Attractive coat hangers, bonnet rosettes, armlets and carriage straps are among the most recent arrivals. The Infants' Wear Store is a complete shop where all of baby's needs have been carefully anticipated. Mothers who like daintiness at a modest price will do well to become acquainted with the character of this specialty store.

Advance Showing of Redfern Corsets

Third Floor.

Have the new "waistline" with the slightly curving hip.

Each Redfern style is an interesting model - each has its own particular points for the figure it is intended to fit, and our corsetieres will select for you the one best adapted to your figure.

Yes, and more than this -not only adapted to you, but the one that will fit your figure comfortably and build it a la mode.

Regern

Every Redfern most carefully fitted - satisfaction assured.

The Note of the Unusual and Distinguished Originality

In Thompson-Belden Apparel is emphasized in these preliminary showings of

The New Modes

- Coats - Dresses Suits for spring of 1917

Private display rooms for your pleasure and convenience Apparel Section-Second Floor.

SPRING MILLINERY



New Millinery A First Breath of Spring

Monday we announce a Special Showing of Newest Trimmed Hats in Spring Styles.

Every Day New Hats Arrive

They have been taken fresh from their boxes and displayed for your approval. Small Hats, Large Hats, some all black, others show vivid colorings; above all else they are distinctive.

Priced \$8.95, \$12.50, \$18.75 to \$25

Millinery Section, Second Floor.

Nainsooks and Longcloths

This is the sewing season, when spring and summer white fabrics are in great demand. So these special prices are of timely interest.

Fine Silky Nainsooks for Dainty Undermuslins

30c (40-inch) Mikado Japanese Nainsook, \$2.50 a bolt of 10 yards. 35c (40-inch) Oyama Japanese Nainsook, \$3 a bolt of 10 yards. 20c (36-inch) English Nainsook, \$2.25 a bolt of 12 yards. (36-inch) English Nainsook, \$2.75 a bolt of 12 yards.

(36-inch) English Nainsook, \$3 a bolt of 12 yards. Longcloths Specially Priced by the Bolt

15c (36-inch) English Longcloth, \$1.35 a bolt of 10 yards. 20e (36-inch) English Longcloth, \$1.75 a bolt of 10 yards.

(36-inch) English Longcloth, \$2 a bolt of 10 yards. (36-inch) English Longcloth, \$2.25 a bolt of 10 yards. 30c (36-inch) English Longcloth, \$2.50 a bolt of 10 yards. Linen Section, Main Floor.



Sorosis Boots Spring Models

Footwear Fashion in a complete assortment of styles are now on display. Spring Boots of Gray Kid, Field Mouse Brown with white kid tops, Tan Kid Boots with white kid tops, Ivory Boots, Champagne Kid Boots and All-White Boots of kid.

Priced \$10 to \$12