

FOOD PROBLEM UP TO GOVERNMENT

President and Cabinet Discuss the Soaring Price of Provender.

MANY REASONS ADVANCED

Here's Plan of Relief
Chicago, Feb. 24.—A suggestion that the car shortage might be relieved by annulling all, or nearly all, passenger travel between Chicago and New York was made to President Joseph P. Griffin of the Board of Trade today, by Fred W. Upham, a former assistant treasurer of the republican national congressional committee and head of the largest coal company in Chicago.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The soaring cost of foodstuffs throughout the country today engaged the attention of virtually every governmental agency with even a remote relation to the problem.

President Wilson and the cabinet discussed the situation from many angles, its cause and remedies. Views held by some of the conferees were that the record prices were intertwined with the general car shortage and congestion on transportation lines and indirectly affected by the German submarine warfare which has resulted in vast accumulations of freight and resultant car congestion at eastern seaports.

View of I. C. C.

Department of justice agents resumed with new energy their investigation of prices to determine if there is an actual shortage of foodstuffs at large cities, where rioting has recently occurred. Attorney General Gregory announced that measures which may be of "considerable avail" toward bettering that situation probably would be announced shortly.

Disclaims Responsibility.

The car service commission of the American Railway association, the railroads' supreme court in all subjects affecting shortage and congestion, disclaimed all responsibility on behalf of the roads for contributing to the rise through failure to furnish transportation facilities and announced that at no time had any complaint been received, which would indicate that there was a shortage of food anywhere in the country.

The new created shipping board submitted to the president a plan for relief by placing American vessels in the coast-to-coast trade, thus releasing freight cars required for transcontinental traffic. A large merchant marine which could be used for this duty, sailing by way of the Panama canal would be valuable on the passage by congress of amendments to the shipping bill now pending.

Causes for Rise.

The railroads' views were in direct conflict with those of some members of the cabinet in so far as they related to the connection between car shortage and price increases. The belief generally expressed at the meeting was that the car shortage and congestion were largely responsible for the rise.

Data submitted by the Interstate Commerce commission and other governmental agencies relating to congestions and the volume of exports was considered in detail by the cabinet. Reports showed radical increases in congestion at Atlantic ports and a sharp reduction in exports since the beginning of unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany.

Remedies were conceded to be in the formative stage. The nature of measures under consideration by the Department of Justice was not disclosed. The department's recent exhaustive inquiry into the practices of dealers in fuel and foodstuffs is said to have revealed a state of affairs which, although patently artificial in some instances, was beyond the scope of existing federal legislation to correct.

Combinations have been unearthed here and there, it was said, to raise the price of fuel, but information concerning them was turned over to the proper state or municipal authorities as the alleged combinations were local in character. So far the department's inquiry has shown there existed no widespread general conspiracy to advance prices.

Officials reached the conclusion that the situation was primarily an economic one and that the rise in the prices of some of the chief staples was due in large measure to the heavy drain of Europe on the American supply. In this list were placed, wheat and other grain, flour, sugar and meats. Many thousands tons of meats of all sorts have been purchased in Chicago by buyers for the entente governments. It was said, sufficient to cause an actual shortage and resultant price increases in this country.

Urge Rulings Broadened.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Relief from the car shortage prevailing throughout the country will result if the demands of railroad car inspectors and foremen are complied with by the Interstate Commerce commission, in the opinion of members of the Car Foremen and Inspectors' association, who met informally here today.

At this meeting a resolution was adopted asking the commission to broaden its rulings so that damaged or broken cars or cars without the required federal safety appliances may be returned to their respective owners, without delay, instead of being held on sidings of foreign roads to be repaired by them at the expense of the owning road. It was asked also that the time limit for equipping freight and other cars with the federal safety appliances be extended from July 1, 1917, when the new law becomes effective, until July 1, 1918.

More Fighting in Philadelphia.
Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 24.—Frenzied scrimmages between police and

women protesting against the present cost of food continued today in the southeastern section of the city. There was less violence than yesterday, rain late in the afternoon driving many women from the streets.

At every store, stands or push carts where chickens, fish, potatoes, or onions were on sale, groups of women gathered and warned away would-be buyers. Disorders resulted when the police tried to break up these gatherings.

Two plain clothes men, who attempted to protect a woman, who entered one of the boycotted stores were attacked by an unruly crowd. They were knocked down and trampled by the crowd which greatly outnumbered the police. Two women were seized as ring leaders of the disturbance, by other policemen, but the excited crowd quickly rescued them.

Iowa Sidetracks Loaded With Grain Clear to Nebraska

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 24.—Millions of bushels of grain, on which contracts expire March 1, are being held in Iowa elevators and on Iowa farms by the lack of cars to transport it to points of delivery, according to complaints lodged with the Iowa Railroad commission.

Railroad men say that sidetracks on practically every railway in the state are crowded with loaded cars the railroads cannot move. The congestion has backed up as far as Nebraska and the situation is getting worse, they say.

George Wrightman, secretary of the Iowa Manufacturers' association, who has just returned from Chicago, where he attended a conference with the view of obtaining freight cars for Iowa shippers, declared that there was little hope for relief. "Iowa manufacturers and farmers," Wrightman said, "will lose millions of dollars by this blockade."

Lansing's Departure Arouses Speculation

Washington, Feb. 24.—The departure of Secretary Lansing tonight for a three-day stay at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., was variously interpreted in connection with possible developments in the German crisis. At first there was a general tendency to believe that it meant the government did not contemplate taking any new steps before the middle of next week, that if decisions had been reached and plans worked out the head of the State department could be spared for a few days' rest, now better than later.

There was a two-hour cabinet meeting this afternoon, followed by the announcement that the international situation had undergone no change. Members were more than usually reticent in discussion afterwards, although they indicated that President Wilson still had made no plans for his expected visit to congress to seek authority to protect Americans and their ships from submarines.

HAPPENINGS IN THE MAGIC CITY

Hawthorne School Pupils Give Patriotic Program in School.

ENTHUSIASM FOR THE FLAG

"America," the "Star-Spangled Banner" and other patriotic songs were sung at an entertainment at the Hawthorne school, the largest in the South Side, Friday afternoon. All students of the school attended en masse and the program lasted throughout a greater part of the afternoon.

"The Little Hatchet," "Abraham Lincoln, Rail-splitter," "Washington's Boyhood," "Lincoln's Gettysburg Speech" and other recitations were given by students of the Seventh and Eighth grades. Joe Shainholtz, Gordon Haller, Warren Evans and Hazel Hoden were students who took part.

Great enthusiasm was shown for the American flag. Miss Tynon, teacher of the Eighth grade, had charge of the program.

Hachten to Salt Lake.

Walter Hachten, buyer for the Cudahy string here for the last fifteen years, has received an order of transfer to Salt Lake City, which takes effect today.

Boys at the yards gave him a send-off Friday morning in the exchange lobby, the informal affair winding up with the presentation of a gold watch and lavalliere for Mrs. Hachten. The buyer leaves this morning for his new post.

Dramatic Entertainment.

As an entertainment members of the Hillsdale Baptist church have to announce that the play "The Fortune Teller," well known in dramatic circles, will be read to the public this evening at 8 o'clock by Prof. E. R. Misner, head of the department of dramatics at York college.

York college arts and science pupils have been giving a series of musical and dramatic entertainments at the west side church intermittently for months past and have been very well received. The church is at Forty-third at I streets.

dredweight. The hogs were somewhat heavier than usual, averaging 347 pounds, there being but one carload in the record lot.

Magic City Gossip.

A safe place to trade at—Phillip's Dept. Store, 24th and O Sts., South Side. For Rent—Stores, houses, cottages and flats. SOUTH OMAHA INVESTMENT CO.

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The past chiefs of Superior lodge, No. 181, Order of Honor, will have a reservation at the Orpheum theater Friday, March 2, which will be preceded by 1 o'clock luncheon at the Dutch hall.

Magic City lodge, No. 308, Loyal Order of Moose, will hold a very important meeting Thursday evening, March 1. Nominations of officers for the coming year will take place.

FEW TURN OUT FOR NAVY LEAGUE MEET

Small Gathering at Fontenelle Talks of Need for Preparation and Training.

ANOTHER TRIAL PROPOSED

Four hundred chairs, twenty American flags and forty men were present at a meeting of the Navy league at Hotel Fontenelle Friday evening. The meeting had been announced several times in advance, and 1,000 circulars had also been mailed concerning it.

General George H. Harries said he "couldn't quite comprehend it," and that he "was disgusted with those who failed to attend in response to the Navy league's appeal to Omaha men." He predicted that "they or their descendants would pay an enormous price for the present apathy and lack of patriotic spirit."

Contracts Two Occasions.

He said he prayed for universal service in the army, and continued: "The less we are willing to give, the less right we have to possess. The joy and nobility of service seems to be lacking here. Our lives do not belong to us, but to our country. Last Memorial Day, 31,000 Omahans marched in the parade, while countless thousands wore flags and cheered, indicating they might have the right spirit. I'd like to see some of that spirit now."

Captain C. E. Adams, who served in the civil war without pay, asserted that such discouraging meetings served to encourage enemy powers, pacifists and jingoes.

Minds Need Preparation.

"We are now really in a state of war," he declared, "and the sooner we realize it, the sooner we will get ready. We are simply asleep today. We need preparedness of minds and men more than munitions."

Mothers raised their boys to be soldiers, if necessary, in the good old days, when L. D. Richards of Fremont, volunteered for service in the civil war, he told the tiny audience.

Arthur C. Smith, president of the Nebraska section of the Navy league, presided. D. C. Patterson proposed holdin another meeting soon, to arouse Omaha lads' interest in naval training and service.

Endorse Naval Training.

Endorsement was voted for the work of the Navy Training association of the United States, after Leonard W. Trester of Lincoln had explained its efforts to get civilians to take training courses and cruises on Uncle Sam's battleships, in preparation for the possibility of war.

Wreck Bank Vault.

Greensfork, Ind., Feb. 24.—Safe blowers wrecked the safe in the First National bank here early today and escaped with about \$5,000 in currency.

Washington Interested in Lloyd George's Statement

Washington, Feb. 24.—Premier Lloyd George's speech to the effect that extreme measures must be taken to save England from disaster from the submarine campaign caused much surprise here because of the frankness of its expression. Nevertheless, it was pointed out that the German submarine campaign had given the British premier just the opportunity he wanted of making a supreme appeal to the British people and of imposing restrictions, both on them and on other neutrals, which he had long desired to put into effect.

The drastic prohibitions of imports were understood here not only to be a means of saving cargo space, but of enforcing some of the personal economy in England that has been practiced in Germany during the war.

Prohibition Forces Score In Fight to Dry Clean D. C.

Washington, Feb. 24.—A special house at this session on the District of Columbia prohibition bill, was agreed to late today by the house rules committee. The measure already has passed the senate.

Prohibition advocates hailed the committee's action as another important victory, for they believe the bill certain of passage once it is brought to a vote.

The rules committee stood 7 to 4 for the rule, which, if adopted by the house, would take the bill out of the hands of the district committee and set a date for a roll call on its passage.

The bill, as passed by the senate, would close all saloons in the district, of which there are about 275, on November 7.

Want Midwest States to Stamp Out Stock Tuberculosis

Sioux City, Ia., Feb. 24.—The Interstate Farmers and Breeders' association today adopted a resolution calling upon the legislatures of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Illinois to levy appropriations for the elimination of live stock tuberculosis with the states, the expense of investigation and eradication to be borne by the state and federal authorities and the owner of the stock to be reimbursed, on the theory that in the eradication of tuberculosis all the people of the United States are benefited.

Come Through War Zone.

Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—A number of foreign steamers arrived here today after having passed through the European war zone. They included the British steamers Bloomfontein from Calcutta and Colombo; Carventum from Genoa; Tyomade from Swains and the Norwegian steamer Ellen from Marsettes.

Easter Piano Circle

THE Schmoller & Mueller Easter Circle of Pianos and Player Pianos has as its fixed purpose to impress upon every person in Omaha and vicinity the fact that the Schmoller & Mueller Store is the best place to buy an Upright, Grand or Player Piano.

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