

FARMERS ENDORSE FOOD CONTROL PLAN

Heads of Five Big Bodies Promise Houston to Support Government Program

HEARING ON IN CONGRESS

Washington, April 24.—Congress today took up the food problem in public hearings by the senate agriculture committee at which Secretary Houston set forth the administration's food control program.

At the same time the Federal Trade commission directed by President Wilson to investigate with the department of agriculture, the causes of high food prices, asked all state governors to send representatives to Washington April 30, for a conference on state co-operation in the inquiry.

Before appearing at the committee hearing Secretary Houston put his plans before the heads of five big farmers' organizations and received assurances of support. The farmers' representatives promised even to endorse legislation giving the government power to fix maximum and minimum prices in an emergency.

Will Mobilize Million Boys.

As its part in the government's plans, the department of labor announced that it had undertaken the mobilization of a million boys as active farm workers, to be known as the United States boys' working reserve. Its operations will be directed from Washington by Wm. Edwin Hall, of New York, president of the boys' club federation.

Two announcements bearing on the food situation were a denunciation of the duties to be performed by Herbert C. Hoover as chairman of the food commission of the council of national defense, and the statement that Wm. J. Bryan would tour the west to help spread the agricultural department's appeal for increased food production.

Mr. Hoover, it was stated, will advise as to the best means of assisting the allies to meet their food needs and will assist state agencies and communities in meeting their food problems.

Unable to Estimate Supply.

Appearing with Secretary Houston before the senate committee, were the representatives of the farmers' organizations. Mr. Houston amplified his letter to the senate last week and answered many questions. He said the department of agriculture lacked machinery to obtain an accurate estimate of the food supply and needed legislation to provide it.

Aside from the wheat and potato crop there had been no indicated shortage of staple foodstuffs, the secretary said.

The nation needs for its normal domestic requirements about 640,000,000 bushels of wheat a year, he explained, including 80,000,000 bushels for seeding purposes.

That amount was about this year's crop. Last year the nation had "carry-over" of about 170,000,000 bushels of wheat. From July 1, last, until March 1, last, the amount exported was about 130,000,000 bushels. With all these facts in mind the secretary said it was hard to determine the cause for \$2.32 wheat.

Production Increase.

"Probably," he said, "there is partly an economic justification, partly there is apprehension that the low prices paid a few years ago will be paid again. As to what extent prices may be controlled, I have no facts to base an opinion."

Figures were given showing that the production of corn, barley, oats, rice, milk, butter, eggs and other food products this year were greater or at least equal to the average for the last five years, and that production had increased.

"I think," Mr. Houston said, "the high prices are due to a combination of circumstances.

"A combination of circumstances and people," suggested Senator Kenyon.

"May be," replied the secretary.

Bill Hokuff and Plestina to Stage Hill Climb Contest

A footrace and a hillclimb combined in one faces Marin Plestina and Big Bill Hokuff, Omaha heavyweight wrestlers, today, because they couldn't keep from bragging about their speed on the road.

Plestina is working out for his match with Jack Taylor at the Auditorium Friday night. Hokuff wrestles Earl Taddock at Waterloo, Ia., April 30. As part of their training they have been running from Plestina's gymnasium in the Crombie block to Riverview park, a modest jaunt of only three or four miles.

Plestina believes that he is "some baby" on the road. Hokuff has a similar belief about himself. Yesterday they tangled in a long argument as to which one could stand the most work.

The result was that Plestina offered to gamble Hokuff a dinner for six that could run up the Spring street hill on the south side of Riverview park faster than Hokuff. Bill took the bet. The hill is about three blocks long and has probably the steepest pitch of any in Omaha.

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As both Hokuff and Plestina weigh well over 200 pounds, some excitement may be expected when they throw in the high gear for the ascent.

NEBRASKANS FIGHT ARMY DRAFT PLAN

Hitchcock and Shallenberger Oppose President's Method of Raising Army.

STEPHENS IS FOR WILSON

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, April 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Debate on the anti-conscription bill was started in the house yesterday, the senate having a different bill under consideration.

It is interesting, in this connection to note how the votes stood in the military affairs committees of the two bodies.

In the senate committee to report the conscription bill favorably the vote stood five democrats and five republicans, against conscription five democrats and two republicans.

Senator Hitchcock was one of the five democrats to vote against the administration bill.

Nebraskans Oppose Draft.

In the house committee the vote stood: Against the volunteer amendment and in favor of conscription, three democrats and five republicans; for the volunteer administration bill, seven democrats and four republicans, ex-Governor Shallenberger of Nebraska, being one of the democrats to vote against conscription and in favor of the volunteer plan for raising the army.

As a member of the military affairs committee Representative Shallenberger following the speech of his chairman, Mr. Dent of Alabama, in favor of the volunteer bill, took occasion in his speech made late this afternoon to criticize Secretary Baker with a veiled attack on the administration.

It would be a monstrous wrong, he said, for a democratic nation like the United States to haul down the flag of the volunteer and haul up that of the conscription.

Volunteers Best of All.

The best army in the world, said the congressman, was the volunteer army under which system the Canadians and the Australians were recruited and who were pushing the fight on Hindenburg's lines. He recited the removal of Lord Kitchener from supreme command of the armies of England and the selection of Lloyd George as premier as a movement in favor of the volunteer system in making fighting forces against the common enemy.

It looked like a solid delegation from Nebraska in favor of the volunteer system for raising an army to fight Germany. Today Congressman Stephens announced he was for selective conscription and would make a speech in its favor tomorrow.

Omaha Elevator Stocks Exceptionally Slender

Grain stocks in Omaha elevators are about the smallest in the history of the market. They aggregate 1,773,000, or 1,408,000 bushels less than on the corresponding day of one year ago. In bushels the quantities are:

	Now	Year Ago
Wheat	226,000	1,052,000
Corn	972,000	1,296,000
Oats	251,000	875,000
Rye	21,000	42,000
Barley	2,000	41,000
Totals	1,773,000	2,241,000

The falling off in stocks is attributed to the enormous demand, regardless of the high prices that have maintained. Dealers contend that there are outside customers for every bushel of grain coming onto the market and that none now in storage is being held for speculation.

Bruised Up for Going To Defense of a Girl

Nelson Seiler, manager of the Sherman-McConnell drug store at Nineteenth and Farnam streets, appeared in police court with a bruised face. Friends testified that he was battered because he defended a girl's reputation.

Charles Carpenter, who lives at the Carlton hotel and is a traveling salesman for a local auto company, was fined \$15 and costs for assaulting Seiler. Carpenter is the man, Seiler said, who slandered the good name of a girl whom he knew. The man came to blows and Seiler got the worst of it.

Nebraska's Action Makes Total Of 8,000,000 Women Voters

New York, April 24.—With Nebraska added to the suffrage column, it was announced here tonight by the Leslie Woman Suffrage commission that the total voting strength of women in the United States now is 8,557,308.

"Of the forty-one legislatures that have convened or are scheduled to convene in 1917," a statement said: "thirteen already have taken favorable action, seven have passed presidential suffrage, five have passed municipal suffrage measures, six have passed constitutional amendment measures.

General Kuropatkin Sent to Russian Capital Under Guard

Tashkent, Russian Turkestan (Via London), April 24.—General Alexei Kuropatkin, former governor-general of Turkestan, who was arrested recently on a charge of distributing arms to Russians in various districts for defense against natives in the event of an attack, has been sent to Petrograd under guard.

Brother Accidently Shoots Brother While Handling Gun

Smith Center, Kan., April 24.—(Special.)—A 5-year-old son of Del Betts was instantly killed last night by a bullet from a rifle in the hands of his 7-year-old brother. The boys, unknown to their parents, had secured the weapon.

More Money Necessary For Armenian Relief

Though Omaha has contributed about \$800 in two years to the relief of Armenian and Syrian sufferers in the devastated regions of Europe, the sum is about one-tenth of what is expected from this city, according to the letter received by The Bee from the national headquarters in New York.

C. V. Vickrey, No. 1, Madison avenue, New York, who is in charge of the work, has also written to Mayor Dahlman, as well as to The Bee, asking that committees be arranged to give impetus to the work of collecting funds.

Nevada First State to Fill Regular Quota

Washington, April 24.—Nevada will be the first state to fill its quota of recruits for the regular army. The state is called on to supply 162 men and has furnished 152 since April 1.

Illinois again led yesterday with 394, making a total of 2,971 for the month. New York was second with 238 and Pennsylvania third with 211.

The total for the day was 2,368, although Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Vermont furnished no recruits whatever.

Murguia Leaves Wounded at Juarez and Moves on Villa

Juarez, Mexico, April 24.—Leaving the wounded soldiers of his command in the military hospital here, General Murguia left for Mochtezuma late today with the force of approximately 4,000 troops on ten trains, which he took to the Casas Grandes-Babicora district of western Chihuahua recently to prevent Francisco Villa and his followers from approaching the American border.

General Murguia announced that he would detain all of his troops.

Lincoln Man Wounded With Canadian Army in Europe

Ottawa, Canada, April 24.—W. S. Blythe of Lincoln, Neb., is mentioned in the list of wounded American soldiers in the Canadian army in France.

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Other bargains in good Upright Pianos at \$68, \$75, \$88 and up.

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BALFOUR HONOR GUEST AT BANQUET

Members of King George's Commission Entertained at Dinner by President.

DELIGHTED WITH WELCOME

Washington, April 24.—Great Britain's war commission is receiving every mark of honor and courtesy within the gift of the government.

Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, formally presented by Secretary Lansing to President Wilson in the morning, was the guest of honor last night at the most notable dinner given at the White House in a generation.

During the day he was presented to Vice President Marshall, at the capitol, lunched at the French embassy and received cards or calls from many prominent persons, including William J. Bryan.

Meanwhile Lieutenant General Bridges and other British army officers called on Secretary Baker, Major General Scott, chief of staff, and War department officials; Admiral de Chair and his naval aides called on Secretary Daniels, Admiral Beason and other Navy department officials; and Lord Curzon, governor of the Bank of England, called on Secretary McAdoo at the Treasury department.

Dinner at the White House was the climax of an eventful day. Mr. Balfour, British Ambassador Spring-Rice and all the ranking members of the British commission were invited to meet the president and Mrs. Wilson, the members of the cabinet, Chief Justice White, the advisory committee of the Council of National Defense, Secretary Tumulty and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, cousin of the president. At the same time other members of the commission were being entertained at dinner at the Sixteenth street mansion occupied by Mr. Balfour's immediate party.

The dinner was a simple affair and there were no toasts or speeches. It was served in the state dining room, and the only table decorations were spring flowers. There was music. The only women present were Mrs. Wilson and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, the president's cousin.

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You who tire easily, are pale, lagged and worn, nervous or irritable, who are subject to fits of melancholy or the "blues," get your blood examined for iron deficiency.

WATERBURY'S will increase your strength and increase 100 per cent in two weeks in many cases.—Ferdinand King, M.D.

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BALFOUR HONOR GUEST AT BANQUET

Members of King George's Commission Entertained at Dinner by President.

DELIGHTED WITH WELCOME

Washington, April 24.—Great Britain's war commission is receiving every mark of honor and courtesy within the gift of the government.

Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, formally presented by Secretary Lansing to President Wilson in the morning, was the guest of honor last night at the most notable dinner given at the White House in a generation.

During the day he was presented to Vice President Marshall, at the capitol, lunched at the French embassy and received cards or calls from many prominent persons, including William J. Bryan.

Meanwhile Lieutenant General Bridges and other British army officers called on Secretary Baker, Major General Scott, chief of staff, and War department officials; Admiral de Chair and his naval aides called on Secretary Daniels, Admiral Beason and other Navy department officials; and Lord Curzon, governor of the Bank of England, called on Secretary McAdoo at the Treasury department.

Dinner at the White House was the climax of an eventful day. Mr. Balfour, British Ambassador Spring-Rice and all the ranking members of the British commission were invited to meet the president and Mrs. Wilson, the members of the cabinet, Chief Justice White, the advisory committee of the Council of National Defense, Secretary Tumulty and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, cousin of the president. At the same time other members of the commission were being entertained at dinner at the Sixteenth street mansion occupied by Mr. Balfour's immediate party.

The dinner was a simple affair and there were no toasts or speeches. It was served in the state dining room, and the only table decorations were spring flowers. There was music. The only women present were Mrs. Wilson and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, the president's cousin.

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