

Charge Big Profits in War Trade

Federal Commission Brands Implement Manufacturers as Profiteering Trust in Report to the Senate.

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING. Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Washington, Sept. 7.—The International Harvester company of America and other big manufacturers of farm implements, together with farm implement dealers, were branded a gigantic profiteering trust in a report by the federal trade commission made public today.

In an investigation ordered by the senate the commission found that the manufacturers and dealers fixed prices by mutual understanding, a restraint of trade and that the dissolution of the International Harvester company, negotiated by Attorney General Gregory, is a sham.

The commission's formal recommendations, which will be transmitted to the Department of Justice are:

Advise Court Action.

"The commission believes that judicial proceedings should be instituted against associations who have been active in restraining trade in the farm implement industry."

"The commission also believes that the International Harvester case should be reopened as provided for in the final decree, so that a plan of dissolution be arrived at that will restore competitive conditions in the harvesting machine business."

Conclusions of the inquiry, as set forth by the commission, follow: "Farm implement manufacturers and dealers by concerted action advanced prices in 1917 and 1918 by amounts that were larger than were warranted by the increase in their costs and expenses, and this resulted in unusually large profits for those years."

"In spite of the great increase in farm implements prices, the farmers were not prevented from making as much profit as before because the prices of farm products increased to an ever greater extent."

Dissolution Not Complete.

"The partial dissolution of the International Harvester company in 1918 did not change the dominating position of that company in the harvesting machinery line and will not do so while the McCormick and Deering plants and the steel business remain united under its control either directly or by common ownership of stock."

"The commission finds that manufacturers' prices of farm implements to dealers increased 82 per cent during the period 1916 to 1918, while dealers' prices to farmers increased 62 per cent and says there was no general shortage in the supply of farm implements, nor was there any unusual demand, especially because of the decrease in the number of machines exported and of the more extensive repairing of old machines to meet the increase in domestic requirements."

"How the alleged price boosts were brought about by concerted action of the manufacturers and the dealers is thus described by the commission:

"Practically all important manufacturers of farm implements and members of the National Implement and Vehicle association, which was formed in 1911 by the union of several existing farm implement associations,

"Under cover of bringing about uniform cost accounting, uniform terms of sale and standardization of product, the manufacturers who are members of these associations repeatedly advanced prices of farm implements by concerted action during the period 1916 to 1918, inclusive."

"The association received assistance in maintaining prices after the armistice from the implement trade journals and from the Agricultural Publishers' association, an organization of farm papers."

Manufacturers Deny Commission Charges

By The Associated Press. Chicago, Sept. 7.—Statements issued by the International Harvester company and the National Implement and Vehicle association in reply to the report of the federal trade commission denied that either organization has at any time attempted to fix or maintain prices.

The International Harvester company's statement signed by Cyrus H. McCormick, chairman of its board of directors, said:

"It should be noted that the report does not find prices or profits in the farm implement industry excessive, exorbitant or unreasonable, yet the commission's figures on manufacturers' profits greatly exceed this company's net earnings."

"The commission might well have added in its report that if farmers were allowed the same rate of compensation per hour for labor of themselves and of their families that

the manufacturers pay for the production of farm implements it would be evident that the farmer needs all of the advanced price on farm products in order to make a decent living. The advance in prices in both cases is due to causes beyond the farmers' or the manufacturers' control.

"The harvester company has never colluded with any competitor in fixing or maintaining prices."

The statement from the National Implement and Vehicle association, which claims to represent 90 per cent of the producers of farm implements in the country, declared the report was an "unwarranted attack on a conservative and vital industry." It added:

"The commission's figures on profits are sadly misleading. It does not include as proper charges against profits income or excess profits taxes, interest on borrowed money or cash discounts allowed. Figuring in these items, the net profit of farm implement manufacturers was less than 10 per cent on capital stock invested, not counting out paper profits due to advances in unsold inventory. This association has never participated in any price fixing attempt in the farm implement industry."

Miners Walk Out.

Virginia City, Nev., Sept. 7.—When their request for an increase of \$1 a day in wages, making the scale for miners and topmen \$6 a shift, was denied, about 350 miners working in the Virginia City mines walked out.

Wedding Rehearsal Halted When Copper Takes the Bridegroom

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Chicago, Sept. 7.—Owen T. Johnson, an X-Ray expert, was to have been married Monday to Miss Rose Vaughn, but the bridegroom's divorced wife, Mrs. Josephine Johnson, of Indianapolis, stepped in and stopped the proceedings. As a result Johnson occupies a cell at the Warren avenue police station charged with wife and child abandonment.

"Somebody double-crossed me and sent an invitation I sent them to my divorced wife," said Johnson, "and then she blows in with a cop and gets him to drag me away. I don't know why she should do it only out of pure cussedness."

"I think he should be forced to support me and our son before he takes a new wife," said Mrs. Johnson. "He deserted me seven years ago. Last year I got a divorce, but no alimony."

Stunt Flyer Killed.

Detroit, Sept. 7.—Morton L. Tinney, former army aviator, fell 500 feet to his death Monday while performing aerial acrobatics at the state fair grounds.

In an attempt to catch a rope ladder, on which he was to climb from one plane to another flying above him, he missed his hold and plunged from the top of his machine.

Former Bee Writer 'Covering' Red War

A. M. Easterling, Once Omaha Reporter, Now in Russia for Associated Press.

A. M. Easterling, former member of the editorial staff of The Omaha Bee and prominent newspaper man of the state, now is in Russia, 200 miles west of Minsk, "cover-

ing" one phase of the bolshevist war, for The Associated Press, according to an announcement made today in the monthly service bulletin of the Associated Press.

The bulletin says: "A. M. Easterling, recently from Chicago and then from London and Berlin offices, has sent a number of dispatches from Allenstein and Jannitsburg. When the bolsheviks drew up at the German frontier he left east Prussia and crossed into Russia. He was first heard from at Koino, whither he pushed further into the interior as far as Lomsha, 200 miles west of Minsk, meanwhile

keeping up communication with the war and getting in touch with officials of the bolshevist regime."

Easterling joined the staff of The Associated Press shortly before the war and after a short time in the Omaha office was transferred to the Chicago office. Following his return from service with the American army he again joined The Associated Press and was transferred to Galveston, Tex., from which place he was transferred overseas, first to the London bureau of The Associated Press and thence to the Berlin office.

Bee Want Ads Bring Results

Omaha Boy Held Upon Arrival at Glenwood

Glenwood, Mo., Sept. 7.—(Special.)—A boy giving his name and address as Melvin Sheldon, 11, 615 North Twentieth street, Omaha, Neb., who arrived in Glenwood by horse and buggy at 6 o'clock last night, is being held by authorities here until his relatives can be notified.

According to the boy, he took the horse and buggy at Plattsmouth, after having reached there by train from Omaha yesterday afternoon. He said that he had left home with

37 cents and was endeavoring to get to Labor, Ia. The lad was well dressed, wearing a light waist, dark trousers and black shoes and stockings. One eye is said to be slightly defective.

Reopen Wage Scale.

Sheridan, Wyo., Sept. 6.—Reopening the wage scale signed a month ago by operators and coal miners of northern Wyoming, is expected at a meeting to be held in Billings, Mont., next Wednesday.

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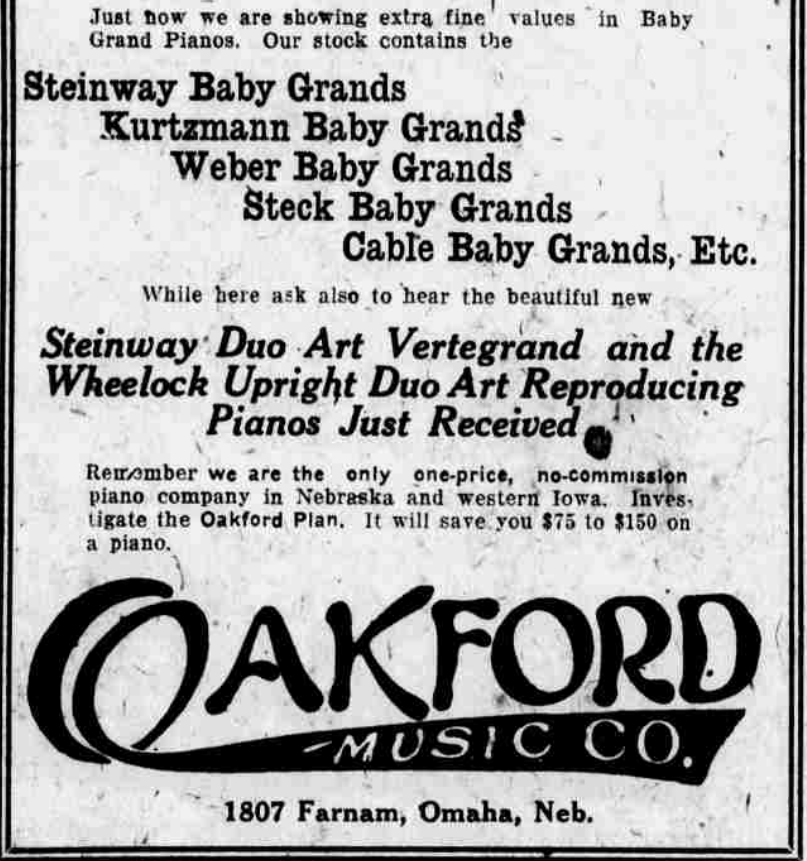
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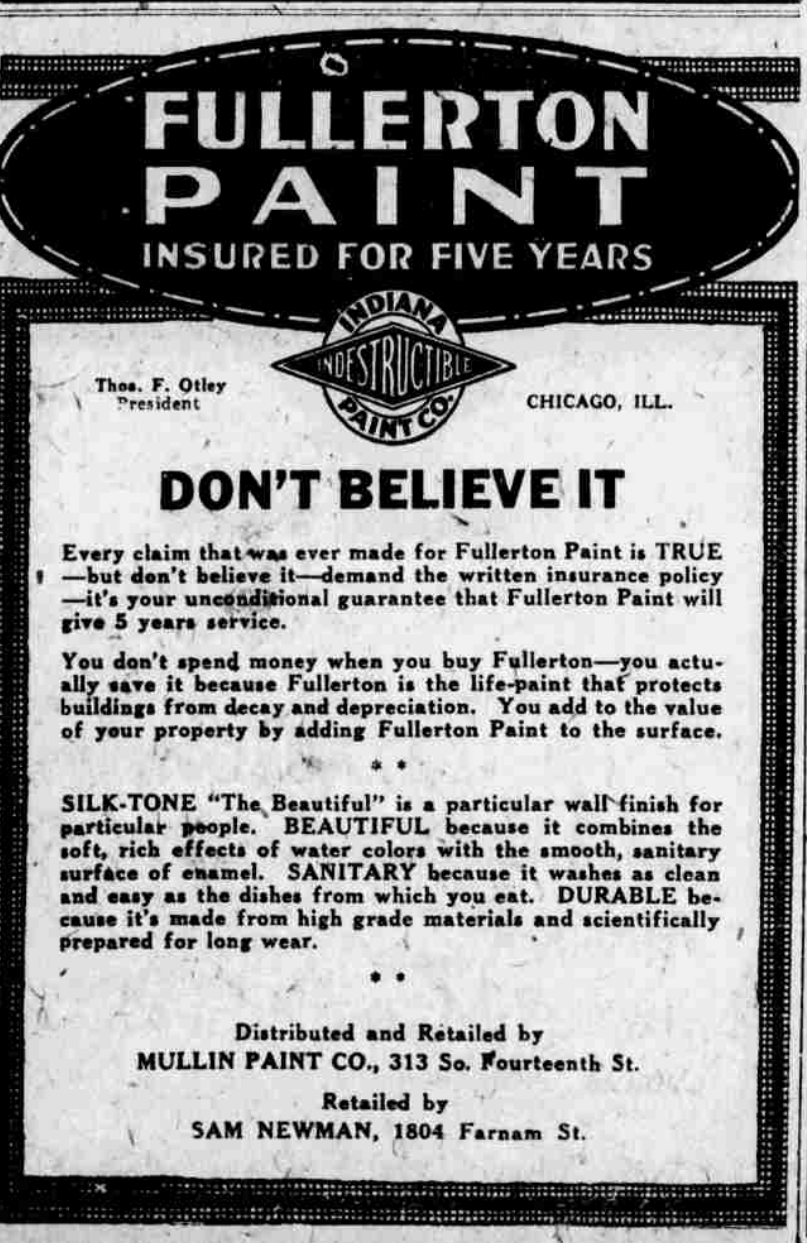
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