

McKelvie Price Probe Findings Are Announced

Increase in Value of Flour Over Wheat 48 Cents a Bushel, or 57 Per Cent.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 9.—Synopsis of findings of the state board of investigation into the subjects of wheat, corn, poultry and eggs, together with labor and rents affecting their distribution, conducted by direction of Governor McKelvie, was announced today. No recommendations are made. By subjects, the findings briefly follow:

Wheat—Farm labor reduced in the early part of 1920 nearly 50 per cent but rents of farm lands remained uniform during period of 1919 to 1920, inclusive. During 1920 wheat sold by the producer netted him an average of about \$2.25 a bushel; during the early part of marketing season of 1921, wheat retailed at about \$1.85 per bushel, having since been reduced to an average of 90 cents per bushel.

Flour—Considering millers are able to buy their mixture of wheat at an average price of \$1.10 per bushel, we find they can dispose of their by-products of farm lands remained uniform during period of 1919 to 1920, inclusive. During 1920 wheat sold by the producer netted him an average of about \$2.25 a bushel; during the early part of marketing season of 1921, wheat retailed at about \$1.85 per bushel, having since been reduced to an average of 90 cents per bushel.

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Bakers' Profits Large.

Bread—Fifty-six so-called pound loaves of bread are obtained from one bushel of wheat, the latter costing \$1.32. Additional ingredients, these 56 loaves are being sold to retailers at 6 cents per loaf, which realizes a total of \$3.36 for the baker, or an increase of 155 per cent over the price he paid for the flour and an increase of 124 per cent over the amount the housewife pays for the amount of flour used.

Corn—The farmer receives about 25 to 30 cents per bushel for corn in selling to the miller, feed yard and elevators. A bushel of corn is milled into about 20 pounds of hominy feed and about 36 pounds of cornmeal or a net to miller of about 30 cents for cornmeal from each bushel milled. That part of a bushel of corn going into cornmeal nets the farmer 20 cents; the miller 50 cents; the packer, in five pound bags, 72 cents and the retailer \$1.08, paid by the consumer.

Poultry—Spring variety which net the farmer 16 cents a pound is sold by the wholesale dealer at about 30 per cent over the price paid the producer after accounting for the shrink in dressing, which increase is about equally divided.

45 Per Cent Increase.

Eggs—Fresh eggs are being sold for an average of about 30 cents per dozen by the producer and mostly disposed by the retailer at about 60 cents. The average consumer pays about 45 per cent more for eggs the year around than the average producer receives.

Restaurants—Lincoln restaurants arranged on business basis so that food or raw material shall cost about 50 per cent of the service price, labor 20 per cent, other expense 15 per cent, leaving a profit of from 10 to 15 per cent.

The Lincoln hearings have been completed and the board announces similar investigations may be conducted in other cities of the state in the near future.

State Board to Hold Hearing at Hospital

Kearney, Neb., Dec. 9.—(Special Telegram.)—Without a complaining witness on hand to press any specific charges, members of the state board of control met at Kearney yesterday to investigate conditions at the state tuberculosis hospital pertaining to treatment of ex-service men.

It was announced at the conclusion of their inspection, during the course of which Ralph Krause, vocational director in this district and several ex-service men, patients, were questioned, that the board will meet again and everyone having a grievance will be heard.

The hearing will be held December 21.

None of the board members will make a statement on what progress, if any, was made during course of their visit.

Blunder Blamed for Sinking of Submarine

Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 9.—One of the men rescued from the submarine S-48, which sank Wednesday night in Long Island sound, about five miles from here, charged last night that some person or persons at the plant of the Lake Torpedo Boat company blundered in not properly clamping the lid of a manhole and that the submerging of the boat was followed by an influx of water. As a result, 51 men faced death for 11 hours.

The submarine was to have been delivered Wednesday to the government at New London. It was passed on as being mechanically perfect when it left the plant.

Simon Lake, consulting engineer of the Lake company, said tonight the accident might have resulted from some mechanical defect or a blunder by some human agency.

Would-Be Thief Released On Promise to Leave City

Thomas Murphy, charged with petit larceny, pleaded guilty before Judge Foster in Central police court this morning. Murphy was arrested Thursday night while attempting to steal an overcoat from an automobile at Fourteenth and Douglas streets.

"You see judge, I just got out of the county jail yesterday afternoon after serving 45 days for vagrancy. I tried to get work during the afternoon but failed. I was hungry and I tried to get the coat but was caught. If you will give me a chance I will get out of town."

"How long will it take you?" asked the judge.

"I can get out in an hour."

"Agreed," said the court and Murphy was discharged.

The Fortune Hunter

(Continued from Yesterday.)

So the bridge of kisses had fallen, as the Fortune Hunter had known it was bound to fall. What was the use of going on struggling to make some sort of happiness, when the only foundation on which he could build it was a lie?

He took his hat and went down into the village, wandering on restlessly through the straggling streets, unconscious of his surroundings.

It was only when he was crossing the bridge where he had stood in the rain that wet afternoon with Anne that he saw Fernie coming towards him. The Fortune Hunter's face hardened; he had not seen this man since the meeting on the station platform, and as Fernie drew nearer, he deliberately turned his back and on him, leaning his elbows on the low wall of the bridge and staring down at the river.

But Fernie was not so easily snubbed, and he sauntered up to the Fortune Hunter, his hands stuck into the pockets of his shabby corduroy breeches.

"Nice morning, Mr. Smith."

The Fortune Hunter looked around, but made no answer.

"Not tired of Somerton yet, then?" the elder man went on, still in the same insinuating voice.

The Fortune Hunter stood upright, his eyes very fierce.

"Not yet, Mr. Fernie," he said slowly.

"Humph." The old man grinned

and nodded his head slowly. "Going to give it another day or two, eh? Well, I'm not sure that I don't rather admire your pluck, after all. . . . Good morning." And he sauntered off again whistling softly.

The Fortune Hunter stood looking after him, his hands clenched, then he laughed and shrugged his shoulders; he was not afraid of anyone in the world except the woman who loved him.

And during the next few days the rift between them grew to almost terrifying proportions. The Fortune Hunter, with his own despair, the Fortune Hunter nearly threw up the sponge and walked back to the road again; moments when he felt it would be easier never to see her again than to go on meeting the distrust of her eyes, and see the struggle she was making against her love for him.

When they were together, which was not very often, she always kept the conversation to generalities; she never spoke of the past or of the future, and only when Tommy or Mr. Harding were present did she soften a little towards him in a desperate effort to make things appear all right.

The strain was telling on them both, more especially on him, and but for one thing nothing could have persuaded the Fortune Hunter to stay in the house a day longer, and

that was his passionate jealousy of Geoffrey Foster.

Foster had been to the house on several occasions since that night in the study, but he had always treated the Fortune Hunter with frigid politeness, and had made no other allusion to the past. It was his veiled sort of proprietorship towards Anne that drove the Fortune Hunter to such a pitch of jealousy that sometimes he could hardly control himself, and it was the knowledge that Geoffrey Foster was only waiting his opportunity that kept him obstinately where he was. Fear would never have driven the Fortune Hunter away; only the desperate conviction that he could bear no more. And then one evening the climax came. Things had been more or less strained with Anne during the day, and when dinner time came her place was not laid at the table.

The Fortune Hunter, entering the room, stopped dead in the doorway when he saw the omission, and asked a sharp question:

"Anne—where is she?"

Mr. Harding looked up in surprise.

"She sent word that she would not be in to dinner—that she had gone up the river. I naturally thought you were with her, John."

"No—I. . . . Tommy broke in glibly.

"She's gone with Foster—I saw them go under the bridge in his launch when I was coming home just now."

There was a painful silence; the Fortune Hunter's face was livid as he took his seat without another

word, and Mr. Harding plunged into haphazard conversation. It was impossible not to feel sorry for the man opposite him, and when Tommy had departed Mr. Harding leaped over the table and said awkwardly:

"If there has been a little misunderstanding, John, I am sure you can put things right. Just a lover's quarrel—eh? . . . Anne is very sensitive, and perhaps you. . . ."

"There has been no misunderstanding," the Fortune Hunter said in a voice of flint, and there was something about him as he rose from the table that prevented Mr. Harding from saying more.

He went out into the garden and walked up and down in the warm darkness, his teeth clenched on the stem of his pipe, his hands knotted together behind his back.

The beginning of the end—that is what it meant, he knew, and he felt himself to be utterly incapable of meeting and fighting it.

He could kill her love for him—let her weary of him, and she would turn in her trouble to Geoffrey Foster. It would be the easiest way out for her, even if it broke his own heart.

Friede would come to her rescue and help her to forget him, and one day she would come to him and tell him that she wanted him no more, and then he could go back to the road and his old wandering life.

But the Fortune Hunter could be strong when he chose, and so, when Anne came in about an hour later, pale and heavy-eyed and coldly defiant, he greeted her as if there had been nothing extraordinary in her

going on the river with Geoffrey Foster.

Anne stared at him at first with amazed eyes and parted lips, before she laughed cynically and turned away.

"I was quite warm, thank you," she said coldly. Geoffrey always looks after me. I'm rather tired so I'll say good night."

"G o o d n i g h t a n d — p l e a s e n o t d r e a m s!" he said. He made no attempt to kiss her, did not even touch her hand, and Anne fled on to her room and shut and locked the door before she burst into a storm of bitter sobbing.

"He doesn't even mind! He can't really care! . . . Oh, John, John!" (Continued in The Bee Tomorrow.)

Fire of Undetermined Origin Damages K. C. Packing Plant

Kansas City, Dec. 9.—Fire of undetermined origin which broke out in the Fowler Packing plant in Kansas City Kan., last night, caused damage estimated at several thousands of dollars. The fire started in the shipping department and the flames spread rapidly before the fire was placed under control.

Sims Praises Harding For Calling Arms Meet

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 9.—Boldness of President Harding in calling the arms conference was characterized as "a stroke of policy the like of which has never been known before," by Rear Admiral Sims, in an address tonight.

Reduction of armament, he said, would not mean reduction of the possibility of war, for the reduction will be by ratio, and each nation will remain as able to withstand another nation as before reduction.

Emma Goldman Seeks Permission to Return to U. S.

Riga, Latvia, Dec. 9.—(By A. P.)—Emma Goldman, who was deported to Russia from the United States in December, 1919, as a result of her alleged anarchistic activities has left Moscow, it was learned here today. She is believed to be in Riga with the intention of seeking permission to return to the United States.

Premier Turns Attention To German Reparations

London, Dec. 8.—(By A. P.)—With the Irish agreement reached, Premier Lloyd George turned his attention today to German reparations. He held a conference tonight with Louis Loucheur, French minister of devastated regions, who arrived today to discuss Germany's payment of war indemnities.

Today M. Loucheur conferred with Sir Robert Horn, chancellor of the exchequer, Sir John Bradbury, joint permanent secretary of the treasury, and other treasury officials. It was understood, he explained, the French point of view concerning the Loucheur-Bethenau agreement, under which Germany is to make reparations in kind to France over a period of years.

Congress to Authorize Use Of War Supplies in Russia

Washington, Dec. 9.—The War department will be authorized by congress, it was indicated yesterday, to turn over to the American Relief administration its surplus medical supplies for use in the famine districts of Russia.

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