

GREAT COST OF LIVING ON THE DOWNWARD PATH

Decline in the Prices of Foodstuffs Is Noticeable in This Country and Canada.

UNUSUALLY HEAVY CROP OF CORN IS ONE REASON

J. Ogden Armour Says the Tendency of Prices of All Stock Yards Products Is Toward a Lower Schedule--- Change Is Welcomed by Packers

Chicago, Nov. 15.—J. Ogden Armour said today the whole tendency in the prices of stockyard products was toward a lower schedule. He also said the descent would be gradual, and warned the public from too hastily accepting the belief that a drop from the highest to the lowest prices was due.

"The packers' prices to the retailer are based entirely on what we have to pay for the live animals," said Mr. Armour. "Generally speaking, prices are lower, and I believe they are working toward a still lower level. The present situation is the result of the enormous corn crop and of previous high prices that stimulated everybody to raise livestock."

"The public is getting the benefit of political conditions, and should get further benefit as the increased supply of livestock reaches the market."

The recent high price of meats and packing-house products cannot be attributed in any way to the packers, nor to any combination of persons or firms engaged in the packing-house industry. It has been due to conditions that developed from a scarcity and a high price for corn, which is the basis of the supply of livestock. Conditions in livestock raising are bigger than any packer or set of packers. The packers welcome lower prices. Our prices are based on what we have to pay for livestock and the sooner the people and the world at large realize that the better it will be for everybody."

Corn Crop Helps.

A bumper corn crop and unusually heavy receipts of cattle and hogs at the stockyards are given by Chicago dealers as cause of the general decline of foodstuffs over the country. A decline in prices at the stockyards was followed by a reduction of fresh meats and staples. Commission men here today predicted lower prices still on everything except eggs, which, they say, are high and going higher.

The following shows some of the reductions here in the last week:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Sugar, Flour, Pork, Lamb, Chickens, Beef.

The decline since the first of October is from 50c to 75c on cattle in the bulk and the market in general is 50 cents lower than it was a week ago. Hogs have dropped from \$2.25 a hundredweight on October 18, to \$2.82 1/2.

Lard and Beef.

Kansas City, Nov. 15.—A reduction of one cent a pound of retail prices of lard and of from one to two cents a pound in the retail price of the cheaper grades of beef was announced here today.

In Washington.

Washington, Nov. 15.—The reduction of meat prices reported in various parts of the country has struck Washington. In the wholesale district the price of beef was reported reduced between four and five cents a pound by the packers. The price of pork went down about three cents. Hope was held out that mutton and veal and other products of the packing houses would follow in the downward

MEXICAN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT

New York, Nov. 15.—Senor Don Francisco de La Barra, Mexican ambassador to the United States, explained the attitude of his government on the Rodriguez lynching incident, in Texas, and the subsequent demonstration against Americans in Mexico in an address here tonight.

"In former times," he said, "two nations could be plunged into the horrors of war by the simple caprice of a sovereign. Today such a thing would be impossible; the people impose their will and, within proper bounds, they are the arbiters of their destinies. You have lately seen a proof of the beneficial effect of such international policy in the unhappy events that have produced passing disturbances on either side of our frontier."

"The manifestation of public sentiment, which would have been easily applicable within reasonable bounds, exceeded the limits required by law, but my government, acting with the utmost promptness, repressed such unexpected disorders. The American government was not responsible for the awful crime committed nor is my government responsible for the punishable act which gave rise to a public manifestation born of a legitimate sentiment."

movement. Retailers in Washington have not heard of the decrease officially except as to the price of pork. Beef was selling today as high as ever in the retail shops.

Pittsburg Waits. Pittsburg, Nov. 15.—Pittsburg is waiting for the reduction of meat prices to strike this city. Most dealers confess that everything points to an early reduction here and the housewives and the wage-earners are scanning the provision horizon for the sign of its approach. The busy hen of West Pennsylvania, however, has decided to take a short rest and is not turning out her usual supply, hence the price of eggs has gone up to 38 cents.

Gobblers Are Cheaper. New Orleans, Nov. 15.—Beef and pork prices are lower on the New Orleans market than for many months. There has been a drop in the price of beef steaks within the last 10 days of from two to three cents. Fresh pork is selling at a decline of four cents. Chicken and turkey prices are off from three to four cents, compared with a year ago. Fresh eggs are 27 cents, five cents lower than last year.

In Atlanta. Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 16.—Foodstuffs in Atlanta show no appreciable decline in prices.

Pork, Lamb and Veal. Duluth, Minn., Nov. 15.—Reductions in the price of pork, lamb and a few grades of beef have been recorded in the Duluth markets within the last two or three days. Pork has dropped from 23 to 18 cents a pound. Bacon is unchanged, lambs have dropped from 17c to 12c and veal from 14c to 12c.

Tendency Toward Reduction. Los Angeles, Nov. 15.—Although the local market prices are not governed by the eastern, the present tendency is toward reduced prices. This is especially manifested in pork, as lard has dropped from 18 cents a pound to 15 cents. Bacon and ham have fallen off half a cent, but this does not affect the retail price. The price of the Thanksgiving turkey, dressed, is 37 cents a pound, two cents higher than last year, but the dealers say the grade is higher as weather has permitted the birds to mature better.

More Chances for Turkey. Mobile, Ala., Nov. 15.—Smoked and cured meats were quoted today a cent cheaper. Turkeys were off 9 1/2 cents per pound compared with the same time last year.

Poultry Is Cheaper. Memphis, Nov. 15.—There has been no appreciable cut in prices of fresh meats and foodstuffs in the Memphis territory. Poultry is three cents a pound cheaper than last week.

In Louisville. Louisville, Ky., Nov. 15.—The decline in the cost of meats and provisions has not reached Louisville.

"The statements simultaneously made by the secretary of state of the United States and the secretary of foreign affairs of Mexico show the same sentiment of equity and contain equal promise of an immediate and effective solution of the case. My government has already shown, by its prompt action, that it is fully aware of its obligations and ready to discharge them consistently with the sovereign rights to Mexico, over whose integrity we are very zealous."

Senor de La Barra explained that it had not yet been definitely established whether Rodriguez was a Mexican subject, but that this will soon be determined by his government.

Belligerent Attitude. Guadalupe, Mexico, Nov. 15.—At a meeting of political clubs at Sayula, (Continued on Page Eight.)

THEY NEVER COME SINGLY



COUNTESS TOLSTOI, HEARING OF HER HUSBAND'S SERIOUS ILLNESS, PAYS HIM A VISIT

Tula, Russia, Nov. 15.—Count Leo Tolstoy is suffering from bronchitis, and, owing to a high fever is in an extremely weak condition. A message from his daughter, Alexandra, who is nursing him at Astapova, giving this information, adds that the physicians say no immediate danger threatens. Tolstoy suffered from a severe attack of bronchitis in the winter of 1909 and as a result was susceptible to the disease again when he exposed himself to a long journey in the cold and rain. The home of the station master at Astapova is quite comfortable and the patient is receiving skillful attention at the hands of Dr. Makovetsky and another physician. According to the diagnosis of the physicians, Tolstoy is suffering from a catarrhal inflammation of the lower lobe of the left lung. His heart action is good. The maximum temperature today was 102, falling at times to 99, which is practically normal, pulse, 104, dropping to 90; respiration fair. The physicians add that expectoration and diuresis are sufficient and that the patient has enjoyed tranquil sleep, is in good spirits and is resting quietly.

Altogether, this is considered a satisfactory report, particularly in view of the high temperature which was maintained yesterday and the symptoms of mental distress which he developed. Countess Tolstoy, after the first shock caused by her husband's abandonment of his home and family, displayed astonishing energy this morning and insisted upon being taken to the count. Accompanied by her sons and Count Vladimir Tchertkoff, who formerly was Tolstoy's representative in England, she proceeded to Astapova by special train. The illness of the author brought about the reconciliation between the countess and Tchertkoff, whose emittred feelings in recent months have caused Tolstoy much anguish. Count Tchertkoff was summoned by telegraph to Yasnaya Polyana, where he joined the countess and her sons. Tolstoy himself in a letter had expressed a desire for Tchertkoff's presence. The differences between the countess and Tchertkoff arose over Tolstoy's literary legacy. Tchertkoff had collected a large quantity of unpublished material, copies of Harri Murat, Tolstoy's latest work, and other stories, as well

as various documents which he had been forwarding for safekeeping to England. These he intended to offer for free publication in pursuance of the author's wishes. The countess, in behalf of the family, has been insisting that Tolstoy procure a copyright for all his publications, the returns from which would serve to aid the very numerous family instead of filling the pockets of the publishers. Three months ago, when the administrative order expelling Tchertkoff from Tula province was repealed, he visited Yasnaya Polyana, but left hurriedly, as the countess had peremptorily forbidden him access to the grounds. Tolstoy thereupon visited Tchertkoff on his estate three miles away in Moscow province, in spite of the attempts of the countess to dissuade him. Serious family misunderstandings ensued and in consequence visitors to Yasnaya Polyana have remarked the clouds over the customary serenity of the place. The health of the countess suffered seriously and a professor of nervous disorders from Moscow visited her several times previous to Tolstoy's journey.

DIRECT PRIMARIES DISCUSSED

SPEAKER BEFORE NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADVOCATES THE MEASURE.

Buffalo, Nov. 15.—The best methods of conserving the public interest in the granting of franchises, nomination and convention reforms and municipal health and sanitation were among the important subjects taken up at today's sessions of the annual meeting of the National Municipal League. William Dudley Foulke of Richmond, Ind., was unanimously chosen president to succeed Charles J. Bonaparte of Baltimore. Louis M. Greeley of Chicago spoke on the "Present Status of Direct Nominations."

TAP LINE ROADS.

Washington, Nov. 15.—The status of hundreds of the so-called tap line short railroads connecting with interstate commerce carriers in all parts of the country will be fixed as the result of a hearing which the interstate commerce commission arranged today to be held in New Orleans December 8.

OKLAHOMA CITY LOSES.

Guthrie, Okla., Nov. 15.—Oklahoma City lost in the state capital fight today when the supreme court decided that the seat of the state government must remain in Guthrie. The court held that the election on the amendment to remove the capital to Oklahoma City was void, because of defects in the title of the ballot.

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY BEFALLS BOYS

SAD STORY OF A FATHER WHO LOCKED UP HIS LADS TO KEEP THEM HOME.

Butte, Nov. 15.—(Special.)—Caleb Bates of Dayton, Wyo., just across the Montana line, locked his two sons, aged 2 and 4, respectively, in the house to prevent them running away, while he went to work, and when he returned it was to find his home destroyed, one boy burned to a crisp and the other child so badly burned that he will die. The boys had played with matches while in bed. Bates' wife died two months ago and since that time Bates had looked after the children.

PERJURY CASE MAY BE OPENED TO TRIAL

Roswell, N. M., Nov. 15.—Chief Justice William H. Pope of New Mexico submitted to the grand jury here its right, under territorial statutes, to investigate further charges of perjury and subornation of perjury against W. T. Wells, a capitalist, acquitted on the charge of murder, and James B. Eldridge of Boise, Idaho, his attorney, and James W. Walker, a witness. The action created a sensation here because the last grand jury, to which Justice Pope submitted the situation, failed to return indictments, and it was thought this would end the case. Wells was accused of murdering Ollie Shirley, a laborer, in a dispute over the construction of an apartment building. Eldridge was counsel for the defense. J. W. Day, one of the witnesses for the defense, testified that he was offered \$1,000 for his testimony.

ATTACKED BY BEAR.

Wilburton, Okla., Nov. 15.—While hunting near here yesterday, J. W. Williams was attacked by a black bear and seriously injured. Believing a wildcat was in a thicket Williams tried to stalk it, when the bear rushed out at him. He fled, but was soon overtaken and rushed to the ground. Williams' dogs rushed in and attacked the bear, driving it away and saving the hunter's life.

A FINE JOB.

Washington, Nov. 15.—Dr. Charles W. Needham, for many years president of George Washington University, has been appointed an examiner by the interstate commerce commission at a salary of \$3,000 a year.

REPUBLICANS MAY LOSE CONTROL

SEVERAL COMPLETED OFFICIAL COUNTS FAVOR DEMOCRATS IN LEGISLATURE.

RETURNS NOT ALL IN

Followers of Jefferson, So Far, Appear to Have 54 Votes on Joint Ballot, With 52 Votes Necessary to Elect United States Senator—Several Counties Yet in Doubt.

Helena, Nov. 15.—With a democratic control of the next legislative assembly now assured, indications point to a spirited fight for the senatorship now held by Thomas H. Carter. There are numerous active and receptive candidates, but the narrow margin of democratic control, which will make it possible for a few legislators to defeat any candidate, leads many to believe that the contest will be long drawn out. Among the most active candidates are W. G. Conrad, the Helena and Great Falls capitalist, and T. J. Walsh, the Helena lawyer. W. B. George of Billings, who has just been elected to the state senate, is mentioned as a possibility, as is Con F. Kelly, a prominent Butte lawyer. There is also some talk of Governor Edwin L. Norris, and it is conceded that he would make a strong candidate were it not for the fact that the lieutenant governor in a republican and Norris' election to the senate would give the republicans complete control of the state administration. The present indications are that the real battle will be fought by Walsh and Conrad and that if neither can be elected, some "dark horse" will be brought forward. Although it had been previously announced that the official canvass would not be made in Custer county until November 18, the commissioners met today and canvassed the returns which gave W. W. Terrett, democrat, for the legislature, 46 plurality over Freeman, the republican candidate. Official counts, made today in various close counties of the state, insure democratic control of the next legislative assembly, which will elect a successor to United States Senator Thomas H. Carter. The official returns insure the democrats 54 votes on joint ballot.

Official Counts.

The official count was completed today in Granite county and showed the election of A. R. Dearborn, democrat, as senator, and James C. Duffy, democrat, as representative, each by a plurality of six votes. Both of these seats had been claimed by the republicans.

The official count in Rosebud county, completed today, shows the election of F. D. Herbold, democrat, as representative by a plurality of seven votes. This seat had also been claimed by the republicans.

The official count was completed today in Silver Bow county and confirmed the election of one democratic senator, 11 democratic representatives and one republican representative in that county. The official count was practically completed in Lewis and Clark county today and showed the election of six democratic representatives and one republican representative. This was in accordance with the unofficial returns.

Republicans in Helena tonight admit the election of a democratic legislature and say that Senator Carter has privately conceded his defeat. The senator, however, declined to make any statement for publication.

STANDARD OIL GAINS BIG POINT

DECISION OF JUDGE M'CALL REDUCES THE POSSIBLE FINE BY \$29,134,000.

FORTY-SIX OFFENSES

Circuit Court Judge Rules That, Within the Meaning of the Elkins Anti-Rebate Law, a Settlement and Not an Individual Shipment, Constitutes an Offense—Ruling is Important.

Jackson, Tenn., Nov. 15.—The indictment of the United States against the Standard Oil company of Indiana on the so-called Grand Junction concession charge, by which it was sought to have assessed penalties aggregating \$30,084,000, tonight stands shorn of its magnitude. The prosecution met reverses in a ruling of Judge John McCall, in the United States circuit court today, as to a point of law which in one sweep dwarfed the monetary feature of the issue by exactly \$29,134,000, and in general played havoc with the bill of charges as set up by the government.

It was the ruling of Judge McCall that within the meaning of the Elkins anti-rebate law a settlement, and not an individual shipment, constitutes an offense. In the indictment, as returned, it is charged that the Indiana corporation committed 1,512 offenses, basing each of the counts on a shipment from the company's refinery at Whiting, Ind., to points in the southeast through Grand Junction, Tenn. Evidence shows only 48 settlements, all by monthly transactions between the Standard Oil company and the carriers named in the bill within the years covered, 1907 to 1908. Hence, should the defendant company be found guilty on all charges now standing the maximum penalty possible to be assessed would be \$20,000. For each offense the statute provides \$2,000 may be taxed. The minimum is \$1,000.

Of secondary importance, only that in a final ruling was not made, Judge McCall also held tentatively that dates shown in the indictment should conform to the proof tendered. The ruling came unexpectedly. A huge mass of documentary evidence was hauled into the courtroom early in the morning and the first session was devoted to a somewhat ineffectual effort to have them identified and proved by several witnesses. Just before noon, counsel in chief for the defendant started things by informally indicating that the defense probably would admit that the 13 cent rate, declared illegal by the prosecution, was paid by the Indiana oil concern.

Formal admission to this effect was withheld, however, and adjournment was taken to permit a conference between counsel leading to an agreement to this effect. At the opening of the afternoon session this was not forthcoming and in the absence of several tariff sheets desired by the government, jurors and witnesses were excused until tomorrow.

The trial along the restricted lines will be resumed tomorrow. The prosecution, it is announced, will now endeavor to show the much-debated 13-cent rate from Whiting to Grand Junction "for points beyond" illegal; that even should this rate in itself be legal, another rate, a higher commodity tariff applying from Evansville, a point along the line traversed, would make the 13-cent rate illegal.

KILLED IN EXPLOSION.

London, Nov. 15.—A news dispatch from Shanghai reports 23 persons were killed in an explosion in a cartridge factory at Pao Ting.

WILL OPEN CANAL WITHIN TWO YEARS

Panama, Nov. 15.—The Panama canal will be completed December 1, 1913. This information was given to President Taft today while inspecting the famous Gatun dam. The official date of the opening remains January 1, 1915, Lieutenant Colonel Goethals desiring one year in which to train the canal tenders and to get the machinery working smoothly. Ships meantime will be granted the privilege of the canal, but at their own risk of delay.

In addition, it was announced by the colonel that the report that President Taft's visit was the forerunner of another appropriation was unfounded. The canal will be completed in 1913, he said, within the \$375,000,000 already authorized.

The president was pleased at the outlook for the early completion and congratulated Colonel Goethals. He expressed amazement at the work accomplished since his visit in February, 1903. He displayed a knowledge of the technical details that surprised the officials, his familiarity dating back to the time he was secretary of war, when he advocated a lock canal as against a sea-level system. He was greatly surprised at the immensity of the dam,

some idea of which can be gained from the fact that the train was under way nearly three hours on the spur tracks, overrunning the great fall.

The visit of President Taft has utterly dispelled any fears gained from sensational reports respecting the stability of the dam base, which is half a mile wide and so gradually sloping that it could never be recognized as a dam. Colonel Goethals explained that the informal opening of the canal in 1913 necessitated immediate action on the part of congress relative to toll rates, because 18 months would be required by shipping interests to adjust their rates to the new routing.

The president expressed himself as delighted to find the efficiency of the workers increasing daily. The canal is beginning to take the form of a waterway and this accelerates the interest of the employes, thus hastening completion. Colonel Goethals is not officially promising that the canal will be completed in 1913, unless contractors' delays and troubles with supplies interfere, but is sanguine of accomplishing the feat. Regarding land-slides in Culebra cut, all possibilities of their recurrence have been ended and provided for.