

Nation Cries Out Against Dear Food

One Killed in Philadelphia Riot; Steel Mills May Close; Federal Inquiry in Boston

New York Mothers Adopt Quieter Means of Protest—Single Disturbance in Brooklyn—Big Parade Here Saturday

Summary of yesterday's developments in the national food situation:

New York City remained comparatively quiet under the continued pressure of high food prices yesterday. Those who shared in Tuesday's riots turned, with thousands of others, to quieter methods of protest.

Mothers of the East Side enlisted under any one of the half dozen organizations which have sprung to the attack of the high cost of living. While petitions, boycotts, parades and appeals to the authorities were being planned, the city for the most part remained calm.

The Socialist party has seized upon the present situation for the purposes of political propaganda. The argument, "Vote the Socialist ticket next election and get enough to eat," was spread freely throughout the congested districts where the pinch of high prices is heaviest.

Leaders of the party are now leaders of the leagues to combat the cost of food. It is also alleged that some of them were likewise the directors of Tuesday's riots.

Three committees of East Side women appealed yesterday to Mayor Mitchell, asking that he take action to reduce the price of food.

The Mayor ordered the departments of Health and Charities to start investigations to determine whether conditions were as bad as his petitioners said they were.

The Mothers' Anti-High Cost League also sent a petition to Congress asking that food shipments be given precedence over all other freight by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Two hundred women furnished the only riot of the day by overturning food peddlers' carts on Belmont Avenue, and pelting peddlers and police with their contents. Four were arrested.

Other measures are planned for the near future. A boycott of onions and potatoes is gaining ground on the East Side, and a parade of mothers is being planned for Saturday.

The United Hebrew trades and many other organizations are concerned in this parade. It is said that the women will march beneath a white banner blazoned with "Starvation" in black letters. Many thousands, it is believed, will be in line.

Mother Jones, the stormy petrel of economic unrest, arrived in the city yesterday and announced that she intended to uphold the cause of New York's poor in the present situation. She said that she would appeal to Mayor Mitchell, President Wilson and then to the Rockefeller and other millionaires for help. If they all refuse she threatens to lead the women to take their food by force.

To-morrow a committee of twenty-five women will request the Board of Estimate to appropriate \$1,000,000 to start a cost-price market for the hungry.

In Other Places

From all over the United States reports yesterday told of cities struggling against soaring food prices. Information received by the Department of Agriculture in Washington leads to the expectation that if present conditions continue Philadelphia, Boston, Cincinnati, Kansas City and Chicago will all have food riots.

President Griffin of the Chicago Board of Trade yesterday informed the Interstate Commerce Commission that unless precedence was given to food shipments on all railroads, riots in Chicago would inevitably follow.

One man was killed and nine were severely injured in Philadelphia last night, when mounted police charged a mob of hungry strikers in front of the Franklin Sugar Refinery.

In Boston United States Attorney George W. Anderson has started an investigation into the high cost of living. Police are guarding cold storage plants in Troy against the threat of dynamite. At Albany a

bill has been introduced to appropriate \$1,331,808 to make up the deficit, caused by food prices, in state institutions.

In Pittsburgh steel manufacturers have offered to close their plants for ten days to enable railroads to solve congestion problems and transport food with greater facility.

Railroads throughout the Middle West are taking drastic measures to clear their lines so that emergency trains of coal and provisions may be rushed where needed.

Forecasts of Food Riots in Many Cities Reach Washington

Washington, Feb. 21.—Reports have been received at the Department of Agriculture within the last forty-eight hours, it is asserted, predicting food riots in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Kansas City, Cincinnati and other great commercial centers where the populations are partly of the foreign element. For weeks advices have been pouring into government channels complaining of the increasing cost of foodstuffs and praying for relief. The American people, in a land of peace and abundance, are paying twice as much for potatoes as do the people of war-ridden Great Britain. The humble cabbage, which a year ago could be bought at \$7 a ton, now brings \$150 a ton in car lots.

Federal officials, following the wives' riots in New York, are much alarmed, and are seeking to find some means by which the situation may be mastered. That some action must be taken by the government to control the ever increasing cost of articles of food is recognized by the President, his advisers and members of Congress. There are several Federal agencies clothed with authority not only to investigate the subject, but to adopt radical measures, even to grand jury indictments, to stop practices of extortion.

First, there is the Department of Justice, which can bring criminal action against monopolies of foodstuffs; the Federal Trade Commission, a body especially created by Congress to deal with prices of all kinds, and the Office of Markets and Rural Organization, Department of Agriculture, which is receiving a million-dollar appropriation, and which was originally designed to investigate marketing methods and prices. While there have been informal investigations by these three agencies, no results have been accomplished.

President Indignant

President Wilson is indignant at the action of the House Appropriations Committee in striking from the sundry civil bill the item of \$400,000 asked for, with which to make an investigation into the high cost of living. The President will fight for the appropriation, it is declared. He probably will write a letter to some member of the House explaining his reasons for wanting the appropriation and urging Congress to support it.

Representative Misner has introduced a bill to insert this item in the appropriation bill when it comes up for consideration in the House. Presidential influence may prevent it from going out on a point of order. If that disposition is made of the bill, it will be taken care of in the Senate, where Senators already have grown restive under complaints that are coming from their constituents.

The Agriculture appropriation bill has a total of \$50,000 for an investigation into increased prices and their causes, to be made by the experts of that department. The Administration, however, is convinced that this amount of money, the commission to deal with this matter as it should. To conduct an inquiry in the comprehensive way in which the Federal Trade Commission heretofore has handled these matters, the President is convinced fully \$400,000 will be required.

In the letter the President is to write he will explain that it is his purpose upon the findings of the commission to formulate a programme of relief from the present high prices. The President is not convinced even that legislation will be required. Relief may come through administrative measures.

Inquiry Plans Completed
The Federal Trade Commission has completed plans for its investigation into the high cost of living, and will be ready to begin work just as soon as Congress appropriates the money. The plans are drawn on the basis of a \$400,000 appropriation, the investigation to be concluded within six or eight months. If Congress does not provide this amount of money, the commission will have to change its present plans. These call for a most comprehensive investigation of the whole subject. The inquiry will not be begun, the commission announced to-day, until the appropriation is made.

Francis J. Heney, retained as counsel by the Trade Commission in the news print investigation, will probably be placed in charge of the food investigation.

THE SPIRIT OF 19-17-76



New Britain Set Afire by Bombs; Militia on Guard

Twenty Places in Flames at Once—Four Arrested as Plotters

(By Telegrams to The Tribune.)
New Britain, Conn., Feb. 21.—After having been swept by a succession of fires and small explosions which inflicted an aggregate damage of \$300,000 within two hours and a half, the city of New Britain to-night is under martial law. Two companies of militia and as many policemen are guarding the streets. A dozen buildings, including two churches, have been destroyed.

The blaze is believed to have been of incendiary origin. The fire departments of New Britain and four other nearby towns are doing their best to cope with the situation, and excited crowds are marching through the streets.

Four men, all of foreign birth, already have been arrested as members of a gang that is believed to have plotted to wipe out the city. The fires started simultaneously shortly after 6 o'clock in the evening. In practically every instance there were small explosions in basements of the buildings, followed by a burst of flames that spread rapidly to upper stories of the structures. Before 10 o'clock twenty alarms of fire had been sounded from many parts of the city.

While additional fire apparatus was being hurried from Hartford, Waterbury, Bristol and Plainville, it was discovered that all of the fires had been started with an ingeniously devised incendiary bomb, which was made of a new variety of bomb, evidently manufactured with the express purpose of spreading inflammable liquid.

The bombs were made of some sort of acid in connection with Riggs fire. The acid was timed to drip on a wooden bar at such a rate as to eat its way through within a specified time and explode other chemicals underneath. The acid was timed to drip on a wooden bar at such a rate as to eat its way through within a specified time and explode other chemicals underneath. The acid was timed to drip on a wooden bar at such a rate as to eat its way through within a specified time and explode other chemicals underneath.

German Cities to Give Up Children

They Will Be Sent Away to Farms to Eat and Do Light Work

Amsterdam, Feb. 21.—The Berlin "Vorwaerts" says that a mass deportation of Berlin children to the country is planned. It is intended to give ailing children of the three upper classes of the public schools several months in the country.

It is believed that this step will relieve the food difficulty in the city and enable the children to be better fed. It is hoped that agriculture will also be helped, as the children can do light tasks on farms, and other towns are invited to imitate Berlin's example.

PHONOGRAPH DISCS TAKEN FROM BERNSTORFF PARTY

British Suspect Hidden Messages; One Passenger Seized Papers in Coat

Hull, N.S., Feb. 21.—On the double grounds that talking machine records might carry code messages containing valuable information for the German military authorities, while the material of which they are made might be used to help relieve Germany's hard rubber scarcity, a large quantity of such records found in possession of the German officials returning home from the United States on the Frederik VIII will be confiscated by the British authorities, it was learned here to-day.

WON IN TWO-DAY COURTSHIP

Anita Owen, Song Writer, Becomes Wife of Bridgeport Dentist

Misa Anita Owen, author of "Daisies Won't Tell," "Dreamy Eyes" and other cabaret favorites, ceased song writing last Monday, her friends in New York learned yesterday, long enough to visit the Little Church Around the Corner and become Mrs. Jones.

"Bone Dry" Bill Passed in House; Hits 19 States

Victory for Total Abstinence Is Won by Vote of 321 to 72

(From The Tribune Bureau.)
Washington, Feb. 21.—The foes of prohibition joined hands with radical "drys" in the House of Representatives to-day and passed the most drastic total abstinence legislation ever enacted. The vote was overwhelming—321 to 72. The provision has already passed the Senate, and so is practically sure to become law.

The result of to-day's action will be to make nineteen of the twenty-four prohibition states "bone dry." The amendment provides that there may be no shipments of intoxicating liquors to states which have passed laws prohibiting the "manufacture and sale" of intoxicating liquors, states which permit the manufacture, but not the sale, are not affected.

It is the most radical legislation, lawyers say, that Congress ever has attempted as affecting the states. Both the wets and the drys think they have "put something across" on the other. The wets, in supporting the legislation, claim it will have the effect of checking the prohibition wave in the United States, declaring no more states will now vote dry when its voters realize such action means no liquor can be had for "personal use." The drys, on the other hand, declare the "bone dry" law will hasten nation-wide prohibition by compelling the now dry states to begin a big campaign for the prohibition amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Neutral observers evinced the greatest interest in the latest tactics of the wets. A New York member expressed it in his homely fashion: "Maybe they are biting off more than they can chew." The wets, in his opinion, may find out to their sorrow that they have only greatly increased the "bone dry" territory.

Adams at Chicago

A former football player is plunging the line of Chicago's advertising crooks. Some of the newspapers appear to be warming up. Others are sitting on the sidelines. Still others are rubbers and sponge-carriers for the fakers.

But the game is just beginning, and Samuel Hopkins Adams wouldn't be surprised to see that sponge tossed into the air.

He kept score on his recent visit to Chicago, and his account of the battle appears next Sunday.

The Sunday Tribune

First to Last—The Truth:
News—Editorials—Advertisements
Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

New British Blockade May Seal Germany Up; Washington Sees War

Wilson to Accept Nothing Less than Withdrawal of U-Boat Order

Will Ask Wide Powers To Combat Menace

Officials Regret False Optimism—Fear War Will Be Forced

By STEVENSON H. EVANS
Washington, Feb. 21.—There is no room for optimism in the international crisis unless the Germans can supply it. To officials in Washington, not only of the State Department, but of the War and Navy Departments, to military experts and to diplomats, it appears certain that Germany intends to play the desperate hand to the desperate finish.

Despite the extremes to which the President appears willing to go to avoid war, it can be said positively that this government will be satisfied with nothing less than the withdrawal of the submarine threat. This country is on the verge of war, as Secretary Lansing said on December 21, and, with no intention of drawing back, it is impossible to stay long on the verge.

Pro-Germans Active

The small pro-German element here has been loudly insisting that if the President does go to Congress for authority to use force he must confine himself to defensive measures—that he must not propose active hostilities against the submarines. They suggest the arming of American ships, and possibly convoys, but they would not have the armed ships fire until attacked.

As a matter of fact, the President needs no authority for the arming of American ships. That was indicated in the first stages of the situation, when the State Department intimated that it would not object to American ships arming themselves. When President Wilson goes to Congress it will be to ask more than that, and at the same time he will acquaint the Congress and the people of the United States with the exact situation.

Congress Will Grant Power

The day on which President Wilson will go before Congress is not fixed, but he will certainly appear before adjournment on March 4.

No extra session of Congress is desired by the Administration. The prolonged debates, the activities of the Bryan pacifists, the pro-Germans and such men as James R. Mann, who doesn't know "where we'll land," are only embarrassing. An extra session will be called after March 4 only if it becomes necessary to declare war against Germany.

Mr. Wilson hopes that the situation may be met effectively if he is clothed with authority, and sufficient money is provided. Whatever he asks of Congress along that line will be granted promptly, though no one knows just what it will be.

Regret Over Optimism

From the very beginning the State Department has shown less optimism than has prevailed elsewhere in Washington. Many influential people have been losing sight of the main issue in favor of collateral events. Speaking with more than usual frankness, a high official of the department made practically that statement to-night.

This man has no hope that war can be averted unless Germany recedes. In the opinion of the State Department, that a feeling of optimism has spread through the country. The collateral issues that have bedeviled the main issue are:

1. The fact that despite the threat of terrorism no overt act as yet has been committed against Americans. This is only technically true.

2. The reported release of the Yarevald prisoners upon the demand of the American government. But on this point Germany has promised and failed, and even now this government does not actually know that the men are released. Another demand went forward last Monday.

3. The situation presented by the continuation of diplomatic relations with Austria. But this is not expected to last.

BRITISH FREIGHTER FAST AGROUND AT HEMPSTEAD BAY

Efforts to Float Steamer at High Tide Are Unsuccessful

The British freighter Anglo Patagonian, which went aground Monday night at the entrance to Hempstead Bay, was still fast last night, despite efforts to refloat her. The coast guard cutter Mohawk and a wrecking tug endeavored yesterday to pull her off at high tide.

The Anglo Patagonian was on her return from a trip to Brest, with horses for the French government. Late Monday night, as her captain was picking his way along the Long Island coast toward the entrance of Ambrose Channel, he apparently became lost in the haze, and mistook Jones Inlet for the channel entrance.

DR. BRESLER'S KUMYS. Not a medicine but a most healthful drink.—Advt.

Ten Ships Are Sunk; Tonnage Loss, 24,325

REPORTED SUNK YESTERDAY

Rosalie, British.....	4,243
*Oceania, Italian.....	4,217
*Mont Ventoux, French...	3,233
*Skogland, Swed. or Nor...	3,150
*Minas, Greek or Italian...	2,680
Guido, British.....	2,093
Giuseppe, Italian.....	1,856
Centurion, British.....	1,828
*Aphrodite, French.....	600
Brigade, British.....	425
Total.....	24,325

*Listed by Berlin as sunk recently in Mediterranean. Identification uncertain, tonnage estimated.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Number of ships, 127; tonnage, 262,946.

TOTAL SINCE FEBRUARY 1

Number of ships, 137; tonnage, 287,271; British, 84; other Allied, 13; American, 2; other neutrals, 38.

It is to be noted that these figures, based on daily reports of sinkings, are below those announced to-day by Sir Edward Carson—304,000 tons and 134 vessels to February 18.

U-Boats to Defy U. S. by Sinking All Ships in Zone

Cologne Newspaper Declares Non-Contraband Cargoes Will Not Save Vessels

Amsterdam, Feb. 21.—The Cologne "Volks Zeitung," assuming that the American government "is seeking to prove that Germany does not dare should the steamers Rochester and Oriskany American ships," declares that "leaves would be sealed with contraband. It would be absurd, after the German official declarations, that even in a single case any regard should be paid to the possibility of avoiding a conflict with the United States."

"It makes no difference," says the paper, "that they are not carrying contraband. It would be absurd, after the German official declarations, that even in a single case any regard should be paid to the possibility of avoiding a conflict with the United States."

New Order in Council

The order reads:

"Whereas, these enemy orders are in flagrant contradiction of the rules of international law, the dictates of humanity and treaty obligations of the enemy, and render it necessary for further measures to be adopted in order to maintain the efficiency of those previously taken to prevent commodities reaching or leaving enemy countries;

"His majesty has ordered that the following directions shall be observed respecting all vessels which sail from their port of departure after the date of this order:

"First: A vessel which is encountered at sea on the way to or from a port in any neutral country affording means of access to enemy territory without calling at a port in British or allied territory shall, until the contrary is established, be deemed to be carrying goods with enemy destination or of enemy origin, and shall be brought in for examination, and, if necessary, for adjudication before a prize court.

"Second: Any vessel carrying goods with enemy destination or of enemy origin shall be liable to capture and condemnation, in respect of the carriage of such goods; provided, that in the case of any vessel which calls at an appointed British or allied port for examination of her cargo no sentence of condemnation shall be pronounced except on carriage of goods of enemy origin or destination, and no such presumption as laid down in Article 1 shall arise.

"Third: Goods which are found on examination of any vessel to be goods of enemy origin or destination shall be liable to condemnation."

Berlin Lists Victims Sunk in Mediterranean

Berlin, Feb. 21 (by wireless to Sayville).—A large number of hostile vessels, among them the transport U-boat sunk with men, have been sunk in the barred zone in the Mediterranean during the last few days, the Overseas News Agency announces.

Other ships sunk by submarines are enumerated by the news agency as follows:

Two armed steamers of 3,000 and 4,500 tons, respectively, with important cargoes for Salonica.

Italian steamer Oceania, 4,200 tons.

French steamer Montvaut, 3,200 tons.

French sailing vessel Aphrodite, 600 tons, with iron for Italy.

"The newspapers," observes the agency, "note that the real submarine successes undoubtedly have been much larger, as a majority of the submarines have not yet reported. In addition, the paralysis of neutral navigation must be taken into consideration."

London, Feb. 21.—The sinking by Teutonic submarines in Atlantic and North Sea waters of seven more vessels, among an estimated tonnage of 16,000, was announced in London and Paris to-day. Lloyds reported the destruction of the British ships Centurion and Brigade, without loss of life. A French official statement added the following ships sunk within the last few weeks: Skogland, either Swedish or Norwegian; Minas, either Italian or Greek; Giuseppe, Italian; Guido, British; and Rosalie, British.

Of the latest victims of Germany's ruthless submarine war the Rosalie, of 4,248 tons, was the largest, the Brigade, 425 tons, the smallest.

In Reprisal Great Britain Lays Heavy Restraints on All Neutral Shipping

Admiralty Lord Tells Of U-Boat Defences

Forty Encounters with German Submarines in First 18 Days of February

London, Feb. 21.—Britain's new sea regulations, announced to-day and prompted by Germany's submarine campaign, mean the tightening of her blockade of the Central Powers to a point of almost complete isolation of the Teutonic countries.

It is far and away the most drastic step Britain has taken on the sea, and means that the civil head of the navy, Sir Edward Carson, dominates the Foreign Office, which has favored a more moderate policy for fear of infringing on neutral rights.

Naturally, the Scandinavian countries will be affected greatly, as they will be unable to trade with Germany without running the risk of the seizure of their ships and cargoes. As Germany's submarine blockade prevents them from dealing with England and her allies, they are shut off from the sea on all sides and must remain self-supporting until the war ends or the regulations on either side are raised.

Blockade Is Airtight

Those Britons who have advocated an airtight blockade as an important factor in the winning of the war now have their strongest wishes realized. Whether the new regulations will have a material effect on the enemy at this late date remains to be seen. It is extremely doubtful whether they would have gone into effect at all had not Germany run amuck on the sea.

The possibility that the mine blockades may have caught many U-boats out, and make this return impossible, is being commented on with much interest here. At least once before the Admiralty succeeded in trapping several U-boats, and it is hoped that the new measures may result in an even larger "catch."

U-Boat Menace Grave, But Will Be Solved, Carson Tells Nation

London, Feb. 21.—The most explicit official statement yet made on the conduct of the campaign against submarines was presented in the Commons to-day by Sir Edward Carson, First Lord of the Admiralty. Features of his announcement were:

That there is no suppression of news of the sinking of vessels.

That there were forty encounters between patrol boats and submarines in the first eighteen days of February. He did not state the results.

134 Vessels Sunk
That in the same period 134 vessels of 304,000 tons had been sunk, while 12,949 vessels had entered or left British ports.

That the tonnage lost was 25 per cent greater than for a similar period