

Government Urged To Fix Maximum Price on Flour

Experts Agree Federal Action Is Necessary to Protect Consumers

Report on Inquiry Extravagance of Millers Is Blamed for Exorbitant Rates

(Special Correspondence)
WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Limitation of the price of flour at the mill and over the grocery counter is not unlikely to be the eventual result of an investigation of the milling industry by government experts, whose preliminary report is now in the hands of Food Administrator Hoover.

Although the regulation of the price by the government has reduced the cost of flour to the consumer \$6 or \$7 a barrel since last May, according to the Food Administration, the government investigation shows that flour, sold at retail now at \$10 and \$11 a barrel, is still unduly high. For the exorbitant price of flour the report blames chiefly the extravagant selling methods of the millers.

"If it is likely that a scarcity of flour may arise, the effective control of the price of flour is absolutely necessary in order to prevent bread riots," says the report.

Hopes for Further Reduction
Several associations of millers are under investigation also, the government experts are seeking to determine whether prices are fixed by agreement, in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Mr. Hoover hopes to achieve some further reduction in flour prices through the new system of license regulation and milling rules, but the government investigators agree that adequate relief can be afforded only by fixing the maximum price, for which measure the authority of Congress would be necessary. Their report follows:

Uncertainty Causes Liquidation
"Second—Very satisfactory profits for the fiscal years 1913-17 are shown by practically all of the mills. The last fiscal year was a record-breaker. Profits of more than 20 cents a barrel and of 20 or 30 per cent on investment appear to be common. During July and August, however, the Northwestern millers curtailed production and liquidated stocks on account of the uncertainties of the future, with the result that costs jumped rapidly and losses were taken, especially by the Washington-Crosby company claims to have lost over \$500,000 in July, and the Pillsbury Flour Mills Company over \$100,000. These losses could have been avoided had more prompt action been taken on the food bill.

"Third—The information thus far collected tends to show that the plan for the control of flour and feed prices will not work out satisfactorily. The cost systems of the flour millers are generally unsatisfactory and show such variance that it is difficult to determine what their costs and profits per barrel of flour really are. The maximum cost of 75 cents per barrel allowed for flour is larger than is necessary for any of the mills thus far seen. Larger depreciation charges, interest on investment and other items not formerly carried as costs will be figured as cost items by some millers to the disadvantage of others who will not do so. The reward to millers who will take advantage of the situation will be considerable. There is danger, therefore, that the business integrity of the men in the industry will be undermined and the industry itself permanently injured.

"Fourth—In view of these facts it is suggested that the government install a uniform cost accounting system for all flour mills and make a frequent audit of their books, or, what is better, that it fix the maximum prices of flour and feed with reference to the prices of wheat, the yields of flour and the freight rate structure.

"Fifth—Some of the selling methods in the flour industry are open to question. There have been instances of the operation of controlled concerns without any marks of identification. The sale of flour is largely by brands, and the multiplication of brands has gone to absurd limits. Every miller has a large number of brands, some of which are registered and some not."

Ohio Cities to Seize Coal to Avert Famine

Mayors Ready to Act as Snowstorm Makes Situation Critical

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Oct. 12.—Mayors throughout Ohio were preparing to-day to seize coal and prevent suffering, which is becoming widespread. Some already have done so. With a big drop in temperature and the falling of snow in many towns to-day came indications that such a drastic course on the part of other mayors is imminent.

Ohio State University officials reported that unless coal could be obtained for the university by to-morrow the institution probably would be forced to close. With seventy patients in the university hospital, which would be affected by the fuel shortage, it was pointed out that the situation would be serious.

In a number of small communities light plants have been closed for several days because of lack of coal. Many Ohio schools have been dismissed, and public utilities all over the state are running on a low supply of coal, and there are frequent suspensions for a few hours at a time, reports to the Governor say.

State and Federal Food Conservators Talk Plans Here

Discuss Problem of Feeding New York Along Lines of Economy

How to feed New York, along lines of wartime economy, was the problem taken up for the first time yesterday at an important conference here between representatives of the state and Federal food administrative bodies.

The meeting took place at the urgent request of Governor Whitman, with the aim of acquainting the recently organized State Food Control Commission with the work already done by National Food Administrator Hoover. Frederick C. Walcott, member of Mr. Hoover's executive council, represented his chief at the conference, which was held in two long sessions at the Biltmore. He met Chairman John Mitchell of the state body, President Jacob Gould Schurman of Cornell, a member; Charles H. Betts, its secretary; Deputy Attorney General Alfred Becker and George D. Pratt, representing Governor Whitman.

George W. Perkins, who was slated by Governor Whitman for the post Mr. Mitchell holds, was not invited to the conference. Strangely, although the state food problem will have to include New York City as of prime importance, no representative of the municipality was asked to attend. The conferees explained this by saying their discussion was simply in the informal stage.

Harvest Stumbling Blocks
Meats, wheat and sweets were the three food staples about which the greater part of the discussion centered. The grain and general agricultural condition in New York State was detailed by Secretary Betts, who told the conferees that labor and fuel scarcity were proving stumbling blocks in the way of harvesting ripened crops.

The secretary read letters he had received from upstate farmers, who complained that they did not have coal enough to run their thrashing machines and that the grain already gathered could not be prepared for the market.

The coal problem, as applied to agricultural work, will be taken up in cooperation with the State Fuel Commissioner, President Wiggin of the Chase National Bank. Plans for getting cheap fuel for rural communities were discussed, but no decision was arrived at yesterday.

Mr. Walcott laid as models before the State Commission the food conservation plan in effect in the European countries at war and in other states here. "War loaves" and "war portions," "meatless days" and other food-saving devices were taken into consideration. The consensus of opinion, however, was that a general food retrenchment, started voluntarily in homes and restaurants, would obviate the necessity of such heroic measures.

Misses' Winter Suits of Unusual Charm, \$29.50



The beauty of tailoring and originality of line of these smart suits are such as to win even those in the habit of paying more. They are developed in

Imported Wool Velour, New Heather and Oxford Mixtures, Broadcloth, Gabardine and Burella.

Beautifully lined with Silk and interlined. Colors: Beetroot, Java, Seal Brown, Green, Navy Blue, and Black. Sizes 14 to 18 years.

Also—Tailleur Sport and Fur-Trimmed Suits at \$45 to \$150

For wear with the new furs or trimmed with modish furs, such as Beaver, "Seal," Opossum and Wolf. Surplice, Flare, Tier, Russian Blouse and Bustle models, in Velvet, Bolivia, Duve de Laine, Silvertone, Wool Velour and Lustrous Broadcloth material, and in all colors. Sizes 14 to 18 years. One model at \$55 illustrated.

Individual Styles in Misses' Coats at \$35

Of Pom Pom Cloth, Wool Velour, Broadcloth, and Wool Mixtures, displaying large collars that button to neck of self material. "Kerami," Nutria, or Kit Coney. Colors: Brown, Green, Beetroot, Hague, Navy Blue, and Black. Sizes 14 to 18 years.

Misses' Afternoon Dresses at \$29.50

A most inclusive assortment of dainty models, cleverly developed in Duchess Satin. Colors: Joffre Blue, Taupe, Silver Grey, Java, and Navy Blue. Sizes 14 to 18 years.

Dressy Frocks for Girls, \$16.50

Sizes 10 to 16 years

A very becoming youthful frock of Velvet displaying Silk collar finished with Silk blanket stitching in contrasting colors. Obtainable in Brown, Green, or Navy. Illustrated.



Girls' Winter Coats, \$9.95

Developed in Velour and Two-toned Wool mixtures. Large collar of self material, Plush or "Kerami." Sizes 6 to 14 years.

Smart Brassieres and Bandeaux Special at \$1.35

The most beautiful we have seen for some time, and by far the best we have offered at \$1.35. Made of Pussy Willow Silk, Washable Satin, All-over Embroidery and Lory Cloth, trimmed with Cluny Lace or Embroidery.

Trimmed Hats for Girls at \$5

are simply wonderful in their beauty of styling and exquisite coloring. For today we have assembled an unusually large collection, trimmed with flowers, ribbons, and fur. Sizes 6 to 16 years.

Saks' Clothes for BOYS

for Winter are as youthful as they are individual,—tailored for service in the best of Woolens and Patterns. We are now offering

Junior Overcoats for Boys at \$9

In snappy Military, Trench and Storm models, tailored in an extensive variety of Fancy Mixtures, and plain Grey or Blue Overcoatings. Sizes 3 to 10 years.

Boys' Suits with Extra Knickers at \$11

Smart Norfolk models excellently tailored in sturdy mixtures. Sizes 7 to 18 years.

Boys' Winter Overcoats at \$11.50

A sensible and very attractive Trench model, with convertible collar and full belt. Splendid assortment of patterns. Sizes 10 to 18 years.

Mackinaws for Active Boys at \$9 and \$10.50

They give all the knee-room a romping boy demands, and afford plenty of warmth. All new plaid patterns. Sizes 7 to 18 years. Second Floor.

Saks & Company

Broadway at 34th St.

This Will Help Win the War:

Double the use of vegetables and fruit. They take the place of part of the wheat and meat, and are at the same time healthful.

For Saturday, Oct. 13, only

Women's New Winter Suits

Taken from our regular stock and

Reduced to \$28



Plain Tailored, Dressy and Sport Suits—original models by leading American designers, together with skilful reproductions of some of the most beautiful suits shown in Paris for Winter. They are positively without an equal anywhere, and are obtainable here for today only at \$28.

Every fashionable material, every coloring that is in vogue, is represented. If you contemplate the purchase of a smart suit you cannot afford to let this opportunity pass. Sizes 34 to 46. Fourth Floor.

Furs in Fashion's Most Approved Models

will be featured at very modest prices in the Saks Fur Department to-day. A few of the many special values offered:

- Wolf Scarfs in Taupe or Battleship Grey, lined with Satin. \$19.50
- Hudson Seal Scarfs. \$18.50
- Hudson Seal Stoles—72 inches. \$35
- Hudson Seal Muffs to match. \$12.50
- Black Lynx Scarfs in unusually large animal effects. \$45
- Black Lynx Muffs to Match. \$30
- Skunk Cape Effect Scarfs. \$37.50
- Fox Sets in Poiret; silky skins. \$77.50
- Hudson Seal Coats in 40-inch model; extraordinary value. \$85
- Hudson Seal Coats—45 inches long; new cape collar. \$145

Furs listed as "Hudson Seal" are dyed Muskrat.

Military Wrist Watches

A Splendid Value

at \$24.50

A 15-jeweled Waltham movement in elegant 14 Karat Gold case, mounted on new Khaki-Strap.

For your own personal use; or for a friend or relative about to join our fighting forces, this watch will prove a most practical and appreciated gift.

We also have a remarkable assortment of Sterling Silver and Gold-Filled Wrist Watches at correspondingly low prices.

Women's Smartest of Coats for Winter at Prices Much Below Regular

Only the newest coats are included, modeled according to the latest dictates of Fashion, in the season's most fashionable materials and colorings. Note the remarkable values at each price:

At \$16.50—Coats of Showerproof Tweeds in stunning belted models with new pockets and collars. Yoke and sleeves lined.

At \$19.50—Six distinct models beautifully tailored in Wool Velour, Cheviot, Eponge, Fancy Mixtures, Chin-chilla, and Two-tone Velour trimmed with Plush or self material. Every wanted color and Black. Half lined or lined throughout with Satin. Sizes 34 to 48.

At \$25—Smart ¾ length Coats of Wool Velour, Burella, Overplaids or Kerseys, with deep collars of Kit or Kolinsky-dyed Coney, Plush or self material. Half-lined or fully lined, and interlined. All colors and sizes 34 to 48.

At \$29.50—Modish coats for touring and general wear in five swagger models tailored in Wool Velour, Kersey or Cashmere Burella, with large collars of Coney, "Seal," Nutria, Skunk Opossum, or Natural Raccoon. Half-lined or lined throughout, and warmly interlined. All colors and sizes 34 to 46.

At \$39.50—The finest collection of coats we have presented this season, and by far the best values. Tailored in Broadcloth, Kersey, Pom-Pom, Fancy Mixtures, Wool Velour and Overplaids, with collars and some with cuffs of Coney, Hudson Seal, Natural Raccoon, Nutria or Skunk-Raccoon. All colors and sizes.

At \$45—Three of the Season's Best Models in Wool Velour and Pom-Pom Cloth, in semi-fitted and belted effects. Large collars are of Nutria-Seal, Kolinsky-dyed Muskrat or Raccoon. Lined throughout with Peau de Cagne and warmly interlined. All colors. Fourth Floor.

Women's New Serge and Wool Jersey Dresses at \$20

—values only possible because of the hearty co-operation of our dressmakers and extensive preparation on our part.



One of the charming frocks included is illustrated at left, showing the new side-drapery and pockets. Other models are in stunning straight-line effects, with plaits and smart Braid Embroidery, featuring style innovations as tasteful as they are original. Colors: Navy Blue, Brown, Green, Black. Sizes 34 to 44.

Dressy Frocks for Afternoon Wear at \$25

Suitable for informal functions, afternoon tea, or calling purposes. The model illustrated is of excellent quality Lustrous Satin, featuring Embroidered Waist and side drapery. Other models in the assortment have tucked Georgette Waist and sleeves, and skirts of Charmeuse. The colors: Pearl Grey, Beige, Taupe, Wisteria, Navy Blue, and Black. Sizes 34 to 44. Fourth Floor.

Speakers Wanted

The Fusion Committee of 1917, which is working for the re-election of Mayor Mitchel, wants volunteer speakers.

Flying squadrons are now being formed by the Fusion Speakers' Bureau, 244 Madison Avenue.

Call, write or telephone, 9300 Murray Hill, and give The Best Mayor New York Ever Had the benefit of your help.

Fusion Committee of 1917

OBEY YOUR DOCTOR

KAFFEE HAG

95% Caffeine Free

Drink real Coffee, the kind that does not distress the stomach.



Styles, shapes, and colors for everyone and for every occasion will be found in our display to-day, on the Third Floor, of

1,000 New

\$5.85 Wonder Hats

The three charming models illustrated have been chosen from a rare display of the season's newest trimmed hats now assembled in our Millinery Department. They are mostly exquisite copies of creations now selling at much higher prices in exclusive specialty shops.

Hats of Pannelle Velvet and Lyons Velvet are here in a Profusion of the Season's Best Colorings; Solid Black Hats and others in the Very Modish Metallic Cloth and Lace Effects

trimmed with very attractive Furs, Flowers and Novelty Feather ideas.