

\$2.50 Wheat Means Other Prices Go Up

To Serve as Precedent for General Increase in Living Cost

Administration May Seek Compromise

Cotton and Coal Senators All Favor Lifting of Standards

By C. W. Gilbert

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Two-dollar-and-a-half wheat means more than four \$3 or so a barrel higher. It means higher prices generally. It means an abandonment of price fixing, in which the Administration has hesitated and faltered, but which it planned to extend. Or it means price fixing on a high level. Two-dollar-and-a-half wheat becomes virtually a scale. A high price for wheat is a precedent.

That is why the movement for higher priced wheat has gained such force that the Administration will probably be unable to stop it. The Administration is disturbed, but it is practically impotent. It has allowed the situation to get to such a point that whatever it does will be wrong. If it vetoes the bill, the wheat grower will think that he is discriminated against and forced to accept a regulated price when everybody else is permitted to profiteer. If it accepts the bill, a new range of official high prices will be in order.

Price Fixing Long Under Congress Fire

The drive against price fixing began when Congress came into session last December. And as price fixing had been carried out it had a good deal of excuse. The sugar and fuel investigations had their animus in the fight against price fixing. And the shortage in coal was largely the result of blunders in price fixing. The attacks upon Hoover have come from opponents of price fixing.

The Administration has furnished the enemies of regulation with most of their ammunition. By regulating a price here and not regulating another there it has brought about inequality and dissatisfaction. No one is happy. The producer whose price is regulated looks enviously at the one whose price is not. The one whose price is not is full of anxiety lest the government shall turn its attention to him next.

The consumer fails to see where he is benefited, for prices to him have been extremely high in all the regulated commodities, and in many of them they have been a charge. Several of them have been a charge. Several of them have been a charge. Several of them have been a charge.

All of this sentiment has been making itself felt in Congress until the case of the wheat farmer offered an opportunity for everyone with a commodity to produce to unite in behalf of the unhappy farmer and perform an act of patriotism by "stimulating production." The sentiment for \$2.50 wheat is not by any means all a wheat state sentiment. Above all it is a cotton state sentiment.

Conservatives Rally For Higher Wheat Rate

The cotton Senators support \$2.50 wheat. The conservative Senators from the Eastern manufacturing states support \$2.50 wheat. The Senators whose hearts lie in sympathy with coal express their feelings in a vote for higher wheat. And then there is the wheat state Senators.

The administration's half-way policy in price-fixing has made it possible to present a strong case for the wheat farmer. A year ago for more than wheat, barley, rye and almost as much as wheat, corn is high, wheat substitutes have been allowed to go free while the wheat price has been kept below that of a year ago. Moreover the farmer buys back some of the wheat product from the mills. This year he has been paying about 75 per cent more for "shorts" than he did last year. This last year he has been paying about 75 per cent more for "shorts" than he did last year.

I. W. W. Sell Anti-W. S. S.

CHICAGO, March 22.—A bond issue and a campaign for the sale of "general defence stamps" have been started by the I. W. W. to combat the Liberty Loan and war savings stamps campaign, according to literature seized by Federal officials in recent raids on I. W. W. headquarters and made public to-night.

Thousands of dollars already have been realized from the sale of the bonds and stamps. The money is to be used in defence of members now in jail and in the furtherance of sabotage, according to one pamphlet. Another circular declares that, although the work of the I. W. W. has been greatly handicapped by the activities of government officials, it is now "gradually getting back to normal." Another document declares that "many money contributions have been received from Canada."

The I. W. W. bonds are called "freedom certificates."

City Invaded Holland To Be Uged to Break Stock Fakers With America

More Swindlers Operating Than Since 1907, Says Prosecutor

AMSTERDAM, March 22.—A dispatch from The Hague to the "Handelsblad" says one of the most prominent members of Parliament intends to ask the government whether it is not time to recall the Dutch Minister at Washington and hand passports to the American Minister at The Hague.

The text of President Wilson's proclamation regarding Dutch shipping reached Holland after the Thursday evening newspapers had gone to press. Meanwhile a somewhat bluntly worded dispatch from Washington, speaking of "the seizure of the ships after the War Trade Board had been informed Holland had rejected the American ultimatum," caused an outburst of puzzled anger from virtually the whole Dutch press.

It is argued that there has been no rejection by Holland of an ultimatum and that previously nothing has been heard of any ultimatum. The feelings of the Dutch to all appearances are badly hurt.

The Bourse opened to-day with a stream of selling orders, but there was no panic. Commenting upon President Wilson's proclamation regarding Dutch shipping, the "Algemeen Handelsblad" says it considers that there now devolves upon the Allied powers the moral duty of maintaining international traffic for states which cannot exist without it.

The "Nieuwe van den Dag" says it is a singular fact that both the Dutch and the Allied governments seem to have little knowledge of the course of events. It adds: "One would be inclined to ask whether there is some one in between who is holding up reports."

Stock Easily Sold at Hotel

An example of an ordinary scheme for fleecing patriotic persons was revealed by the Mayor's Committee on National Defence. A man supposed to represent a Broadway concern for making the anti-aircraft gun support the Park Avenue Hotel with a brass model of the gun, and sold stock at \$10 a share to almost everybody in the hotel, including the employees. Finally a man who said he was A. J. Clapham, of 50 Broadway, appeared to take the model away to have it tested. He was obliged to pay the hotel bill of the stock salesman, so he took the model as security.

Reichstag Holding Secret Debate About Holland

WASHINGTON, March 22.—A dispatch from Bern says: "The Plenary Commission of the Reichstag has been holding secret debates upon the question of Holland."

Three Men Arrested For Faulty Gauges On U. S. Torpedoes

PHILADELPHIA, March 22.—Two enemy aliens and one naturalized American were arrested to-day and held in heavy bail to-night on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the government by furnishing defective gauges for torpedoes on American warships.

Blast Kills Thirty Teutons; 500 Arms Cars Destroyed

LONDON, March 22.—Thirty German soldiers were killed and more than 100 others injured and 500 munition cars were blown up by an explosion at the Mevrigens station near Mons, Belgium, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam, filed yesterday.

Teutons Move On Moscow by Three Routes

They Change Direction of Advance When Petrograd Is Evacuated

Soviets Disbanding Old Russian Army

Railroads Unable to Handle Freight and Hordes of Refugees

According to reports printed in the newspapers this morning, the Germans are moving toward Moscow from three directions—southwest, west and northwest. From the southwest they recently have advanced twenty-five miles from Konotop, province of Tchernigov, in the general direction of Bryansk, which is 235 miles from Moscow by rail.

From the west the Germans are approaching Smolensk, which is about 250 miles from Moscow. In the northwest they have captured the station of Rosenovskaya, in the government of Vitebsk.

The order to evacuate the hospitals and other institutions in Gihatsk, 100 miles from Moscow, indicates that a further German advance is considered imminent by the government.

Seek Peace With the Ukraine

The governments of Poltava, Kharkov and Tchernigov have all been declared in a state of siege by the Ukrainian government in an effort to save Kharkov and prevent a further advance by the Austrians supporting the Ukrainian bourgeoisie.

Plan Evacuation of Capital

The Petrograd Soviet has issued a statement saying that these regiments were under influences contrary to the revolutionary movement, were lazy and undisciplined and refused to assist in guard duty.

Siberian Railway Congested

The entire western end of the Trans-Siberian railway is congested with trains of machinery, guns, ammunition and automobiles. All sorts of war material and factory equipment were stacked on flat cars, and government employes, factory workers and thousands of German and Austrian prisoners are being sent to Omsk and other Siberian cities.

Refugees Crowd Volozda

Volozda, where the American Embassy is now located, has suddenly developed from a provincial city with a population of 60,000 to a congested transfer point with a large floating population. Military missions of many nations leaving Rumania and the Ukraine have gathered there, awaiting transportation to Siberia or Kola and Petrograd.

German Capture City Northeast of Odessa

LONDON, March 22.—The Germans have occupied the city of Obukov, on the Dniester estuary, forty-one miles northeast of Odessa. Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports.

Half Million Germans Take 50 Miles of Line, 200 Guns, 16,000 Prisoners, Says Berlin

Kaiser and Hindenburg Watching Attack

LONDON, March 22.—Emperor William, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff have gone to the Western front to witness the German attack, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen. Bulgarian and Austrian troops are now on the Western front, the dispatch reports. The Bulgarians will be used as a strategic reserve, the dispatch says. The number of Austrians on the West front is not large, but Austrian cannon in great numbers have been concentrated there.

Haig Reports Defences Holding

Field Marshal Haig states that the Germans have sustained unprecedented losses in taking a small amount of ground. The British were holding the enemy in their "bottle positions," according to the first British communication yesterday.

Enemy Losses Tremendous; Bulgarian Troops Are Held as Reserve

Berlin announces the capture of 16,000 men, 200 guns and the British first line on a fifty-mile front in the offensive begun on Thursday. The night report declared that the Germans continued their attacks in great strength along almost all the battle front. At several points the Germans gained. At others they were repulsed in counter-attacks. Haig admits the British losses are heavy, but not out of proportion to the magnitude of the battle.

U. S. Warship Seizes Raider In the Pacific

German-Manned Vessel Carrying Arms, Found Off Mexico

WASHINGTON, March 22.—A sixty-foot motor boat—the Agassiz—which sailed from a Mexican port with German flags, rifles and pistols on board, has been seized at sea by an American warship and taken to a Pacific port for investigation to determine whether she was starting on a commerce raiding cruise.

American Gunners Wreck 2 Lines of German Trenches

Deserters Surrender to Pershing's Men in Toul Sector—Teutons Building Defences Which Are Half Concrete

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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 21.—Enemy first and second line positions on a part of the sector east of Luneville have been destroyed completely by American artillery fire. After the raid into the German positions last night the American gunners shelled the positions heavily all night and this morning.

First Mad Rush Shattered Against Firm British Line

LONDON, March 22.—The greatest and probably the decisive battle of the war finds the British lines firm. On the second day the smoke cleared sufficiently to disclose Haig's men defending their positions confidently.

Under the eyes of the Kaiser, Hindenburg and Ludendorff the enemy has made his first attempt of the fourth year of the war to blast, smother and crush his way to a German peace, but it has proved a failure when the size of the forces engaged in the mad rush along the battlefront between the Scarpe and the Oise is considered.

The terrific bombardment by the German and Austrian guns slackened considerably to-day, and after the frightful losses of the first attack, the enemy apparently is taking a breathing spell.

Allies Are Confident

The Allies have every reason to feel proud of the gallant stand of the British and confident of the future developments in the battle which only has just begun.



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The enemy claims the capture of the first line, but makes no mention of a counter-attack which regained territory west of Cambrai.

Instead of selecting some pivotal