

HOOVER GRATEFUL FOR FOOD RELIEF

Says Action of Congress Lifted Load of Fear From Millions of People.

DISTRIBUTION TO BEGIN

American Soldiers and Sailors Detailed to Parcel Out Cargoes.

PARIS, Feb. 2.—The passage of the bill appropriating \$100,000,000 for relief in Europe will be hailed by millions of people in Europe, declared Herbert C. Hoover today.

Distribution Under Way.

"The usual tangible relief to the newly liberated peoples will not be delayed even by the period required to ship the cargoes from the United States under this appropriation because the War, Navy and Treasury departments and the United States Food Administration already have 100 ships in European ports or headed toward Europe in addition to our reestablished relief of Belgium and northern France, Rumania and Czechoslovakia under the old war legislation.

"The new appropriation by Congress enables us to extend this work by giving credits to those countries for which there was no such legislation. We have already placed 10,000 tons in Constantinople as a reserve for them. We have 40,000 tons in Poland, on the way or being transhipped from Rotterdam for the Poles and 20,000 tons in Rotterdam awaiting shipment to the Finns and other liberated populations in Russia. The Polish Relief Committee is sending a gift of 7,000 tons to the Poles.

British Give Much Aid.

"Since the armistice the British authorities have distributed about 10,000 tons of food to the Serbians; the Italian authorities some 10,000 tons to the Austrians, and the British authorities have in progress some 12,000 or 15,000 tons of food to the Rumanians. In addition, an armistice delivered into Rotterdam 200,000 tons of food for the Belgians and the liberated French with the surplus of our treasury and Belgium and France.

"Had this new appropriation been refused we should have sold out these parcels of food to those who could pay ready money and would have been compelled to allow the others to starve. In this same confidence that we would be supported by Congress we have secured from the Government more than 250 men from the American army and navy for the work of the Food Administration. These men are now actively establishing the proper distribution in all of these territories. Our offices have been opened in virtually every capital among the distressed peoples with the message of this act of Congress we are able to do business."

DEFENDS SECRECY AT PEACE CONFERENCE

James M. Beck Cites Precedent for Its Wisdom.

A defense of the policy of secret sessions at the Peace Conference was made yesterday by James M. Beck in an address at the Academy of Music in Brooklyn. He advocated as little publicity of the meetings as possible, saying:

"When the Constitution of the United States was formed there was no publicity given to the proceedings. There is in existence a paper signed by the delegates of that conference in 1787 which states that any member who would divulge the proceedings would forfeit his life." Mr. Beck said he was surprised to learn of such a document, but was positive of its authenticity. He continued:

"During that conference many delicate situations arose. There was one time when George Washington, who was acting as chairman, saved the situation. The delegates for delegates from seven of the States had said that 'unless the principles of equality of representation of the States were considered he and his fellow delegates would leave the next day for their homes.'"

LEAGUE TO ENFORCE PEACE.

Programme Given for Six Sessions to Begin Here on Thursday.

The Atlantic Congress of the League to Enforce Peace will begin a series of six sessions at the Hotel Astor Wednesday morning. The convention will be opened by William Howard Taft, and other speakers at the first session will be Norman Hapgood and Dr. Stephen S. Wise. In the afternoon the speakers will be Dr. Henry van Dyke, Dr. George Easton Wiley, William C. Brewster, Osborn and Clifford Pinchot. At the night session the speakers will be James W. Gerard, Frederic R. Coudert, Bainbridge Hilly and Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia.

Thursday morning the speakers will include Mr. M. J. Lavelle, Dr. Charles Edward Jefferson and Dr. Richard H. Taft, president of the University of Virginia. In the afternoon topics will be discussed by A. Lawrence Lowell, president of Harvard; Edward A. Flinn of Boston and Robert S. Horner of New York. The congress will finish on Thursday night with a mass meeting in the Seventy-first Regiment Armory, at which the speakers will be Frank P. Walsh, John Mitchell, John A. Voll, Hugh Frazer and former President Taft, all discussing "Labor's Demand for a League of Nations."

WILLARD DINES ALFONSO.

King and Queen Guests of U. S. Envoy at Madrid.

Madrid, Saturday, Feb. 1.—King Alfonso and Queen Victoria were the guests of honor at a dinner last night at the American Embassy. Prominent members of Spanish society and leading Spanish statesmen also were the guests of Ambassador and Mrs. Willard. Mrs. E. M. House, who is visiting Mrs. Willard, was present. The dinner was the first since the war when by a foreign diplomat to be attended by the King and Queen.

HOG PRICE FIXERS' PROSECUTION ASKED

Representative Gould Bases Demand on Opinion of Attorney-General Gregory.

CITES LETTER TO WILSON

Violation of Sherman Anti-Trust Law Alleged by New York Man.

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Basing his demand on an opinion by Attorney-General Gregory, Representative Gould (N. Y.) today asked the prosecution under the Sherman anti-trust law of all parties to the price fixing agreements affecting hogs. These agreements have been entered into monthly by month between the packers, the producers of hogs and the United States Food Administration.

Mr. Gould at the same time made public correspondence with the Department of Justice growing out of his request for information as to what action if any the Department had taken looking to an investigation of the various price fixing agreements between producers, traders and the Food Administration. Included in this correspondence was a letter from Attorney-General Gregory to the President dated August 23, 1917, in response to a request for an opinion as to the effect of the food control act upon the administration of the Sherman law. The concluding paragraph of this letter, according to the view taken by Mr. Gould in his statement, reads: "In the correspondence, he thinks clearly shows that the hog price fixing agreements are in violation of the Sherman law."

Points to Violations.

Mr. Gould is the author of a resolution calling on the Food Administration for information as to the various price fixing agreements. This resolution was introduced yesterday and as a privileged resolution will be called for by Mr. Gould and laid before the House for action at the end of a week. Mr. Gould's statement follows:

"The concluding paragraph of the opinion of Attorney-General Gregory in a letter to President Wilson dated August 23, 1917, thirteen days after the passage of the food control act, reads: 'I am equally clear that the Sherman act has no power under the food control act to authorize price fixing or pooling agreements between producers or traders themselves.'"

"This opinion was requested in a letter from Mr. Hoover through President Wilson with a view to ascertaining to what extent the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law were affected by the provisions of the food control act. Under date of December 4, 1918, the United States Food Administration in a letter signed by F. S. Snyder, chief of the meat division, wrote: 'That after a series of meetings held in Chicago, December 3 and 4, which were participated in by representatives of the committees of the packers, representatives of the agricultural advisory committee and special representatives of the swine producers, it was decided that the price of hogs for January should be continued on the same basis as in November and December.'"

Rights of Consumer Ignored.

"The agreements above referred to for November, December and January are clearly, to use the words of the Attorney-General's opinion, 'price fixing or pooling agreements between producers or traders themselves,' which under the concluding paragraph of the Attorney-General's opinion above quoted do not fall within the purview of the food control act and are therefore in clear violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. 'These agreements wholly ignore the rights of the consumer, for whose protection the Sherman anti-trust law was enacted. The consumer not only was not a party to the agreements but was not represented as such at any conference at which these agreements were entered into. On the contrary these rights were so brazenly and flagrantly violated that Mr. Snyder announced at the meeting in Washington January 28 that parties

WAR OFFICE DODGES FOOD PRICE RULES

It Offers Animal Feed Stuffs at Rate Not Possible to Private Traders.

RESTRICTIONS IRKSOME

Distributors Demand That All Artificial Barriers Be Removed.

Gregory's Letter to President. The letter containing the opinion of the Attorney-General, a copy of which was sent to Mr. Gould by Mr. Carroll Todd, assistant to the Attorney-General, follows: 'August 23, 1917. 'Dear Mr. President—I have considered the letter of Mr. Hoover, United States Food Administration, dated the 22nd instant, transmitted through you, in which he makes inquiry as to his powers in certain respects under the food control act approved August 10, 1917.

"Among the enumerated purposes of this act are these: To assure an adequate supply and equitable distribution of certain enumerated necessities and to maintain within the limits of the Government control of such necessities during the war. (Section 1.) 'In carrying out these purposes the President is authorized to enter into any voluntary arrangement or agreement to create and use any agency or agencies . . . to cooperate with any agency or person. (Section 2.) 'The present inquiry in substance is whether the authority of the President may enter into any agreement with persons in the various trades or occupations which have the effect of fixing prices or of pooling output, in short agreements which if made between private individuals would violate the Sherman anti-trust law. 'Since no specific agreement or arrangement is before me I can only speak generally. It is my opinion that any agreement made with producers or traders by the Government itself (through the Food Administration acting by direction of the President), under authority of Section 2 of the act and effecting a reasonable relation to the objects enumerated in Section 1, for example, to assure an adequate supply and equitable distribution of necessities and to establish and maintain Governmental control of necessities during the war, would not fall within the operation of the Sherman anti-trust law even though the effect of the agreement or agreement were to fix a uniform price or to accomplish a pooling of output. 'This because Governmental action with respect to prices or methods of distribution is obviously not within the mischief at which the Sherman anti-trust law was aimed. On the contrary when natural laws of trade break down Governmental action in this regard may become essential to prevent the private control of markets. For when natural laws of trade can no longer be depended upon to regulate markets the only choice is between artificial control imposed by the Government and artificial control imposed by public agencies. In these circumstances therefore such Governmental action so far from running counter to the purpose of the Sherman anti-trust law is directly in line with it. 'I am equally clear that the President has no power under the food control act to authorize price fixing or pooling agreements between producers or traders themselves. 'Sincerely yours, 'T. W. GREGORY, Attorney-General.'

REDS IN BOSTON HOLD LIEBKNECHT RALLY

James Larkin Says Russia is Only Free Country.

BOSTON, Feb. 2.—A "Liebknecht-Luxemburg memorial mass meeting" was held here today. It was announced as "the final meeting of red week." Several of the addresses were in Russian. A Russian Soviet banner was displayed and most of those present wore red carnations. James Larkin, the Sinn Fein leader, was the principal speaker. He denounced the American Federation of Labor and its president, Samuel Gompers, whom he criticized for "going over on the bridge deck" of a weakness to Europe and "never even going near the boys of the crew." "He is over there trying to save the British Government," Larkin declared. Larkin advised his hearers to go into labor unions and try to revolutionize them. "Russia is the only place where men and women can be free," he said. He charged that organized agents of a bourgeois government were responsible for the deaths of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. A large number of police and provost guards were present to watch the proceedings but did not interfere with the meeting.

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One of the arguments advanced by big distributors of animal feed stuffs in favor of the country wide demand that governmental restrictions on grains and foodstuffs shall cease is the fact that while restrictions are supposed to apply to individuals and concerns as traders, they have not always applied to Uncle Sam himself as a business competitor of men in the trade. During the last few days of the old year several distributors in this city received communications from a Captain of the Quartermaster Corps, War Department, offering for sale large quantities of bran, at \$47 or \$48 a ton, f. o. b. Port Newark, N. J. It is understood that there were in the neighborhood of seventy-five carloads of the bran in storage in Newark, and the men in the trade interpreted the Government offer to mean that as the war was over Uncle Sam couldn't use it and wanted to get rid of it. It was assumed that the War Department had purchased the bran at the same bulk price that the mills exacted from ordinary distributors and was looking for a profit. There was a demand for bran at the time and some of Uncle Sam's surplus stocks, it is said, brought as high as \$50 to \$55 a ton.

Rule on Feeding Stuffs.

Under a rule governing "feeding stuffs," effective on October 1, 1918, no licensee buying and selling wheat mill feeds, which include bran, as a wholesaler or jobber "shall charge more than a reasonable advance over the bulk price at mill of the particular feed sold (plus freight and cost of sacks), such advance not to exceed the following: 'Shipment from mill or in transit, payment cash, demand draft or sight draft, \$1 a ton. 'Shipment from mill or in transit, sale on arrival, draft terms, \$1.50 per ton. 'Sale ex-jobbers' warehouse, payment cash, sight draft or demand draft, \$2.50 per ton. 'Sale ex-jobbers' warehouse, upon arrival, draft terms, \$3 per ton. Here are some of the Food Administration regulated prices for bran delivered in New York city covering a period immediately preceding the date on which the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps ordered city distributors to carry over bran at \$47 or \$48 per ton: October 18, \$35.85; October 14, \$35.51; December 6, \$32.73; December 27, \$35.47. The United States Food Administration cancelled its rules and regulations December 20, including "fair" price schedules in the wheat milling trade, causing an immediate increase in the basic price of bran, middlings and mixed feeds, amounting approximately to \$20 per ton. On January 9, 1919, Eugene H. Porter, director of the Bureau of Animal Feeding Stuffs of this State, issued from Albany an announcement that his bureau had received that very day information from the Federal Food Administration "calling attention to the fact that, although the specific maximum margins for wheat mill feeds have been removed, Rule 25-17 still limits wholesalers to an annual profit of 4 per cent on gross sales and Rule 25-11 limits retailers to 6 per cent on gross sales; also that feed dealers are still subject to general license rules and the two provisions of the food control act. 'This statement from the Food Administration," the announcement continued, "confirms the position taken by Director Porter immediately upon the receipt of information as to the increase in price, that feed dealers should not be permitted to take advantage of the increase in basic prices of bran and mixed feeds to increase their current prices on stock already on hand. This, if permitted, would have allowed jobbers and others to take a margin of from \$15 to \$20 per ton on their stocks on hand."

Tip From War Department.

When feed jobbers and others learned that the War Department wasn't paying any attention during the last days of December to the Food Administration regulations to prevent "profiteering" and was offering bran at a price which on

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the face of things was giving the War Department \$12 or more per ton in excess of the profit allowed by the Food Administration to ordinary mortals in the same line of business, they began to do a lot of kicking. They recalled that last year a well known local feed distributor was compelled by the Food Administration to contribute \$1,700 to a war charity for taking a profit in excess of that which the Food Administration said he could have and practically all the men in the trade began to ask why it was that Uncle Sam shouldn't be hauled over the coals for doing the very same thing. However, nothing came of it, so far as anybody knows. Several men in the business have declared the simple fact that the War Department's agent didn't take Food Administration restrictions seriously is one of the best possible arguments in favor of the country wide campaign for the removal of all restrictions so as to insure the return of all business in grains and foodstuffs to a basis where the law of supply and demand can operate without Government interference.

SIBERIA GROWS STABLE.

Customs and Realty Taxes Are Being Collected Regularly. PARIS, Feb. 2.—Reports received from the Russian Government at Omsk by the Russian Committee in Paris indicate that customs and excise receipts are increasing rapidly and that the Government even is able to collect taxes on realty. This is regarded by Boris Bakhteff, the Russian Ambassador to the United States, and his associates as a sign of greatly increased stability in Siberia. The paying of taxes on real estate throughout Russia, virtually has been suspended since the overthrow of the Imperial Government because of the uncertainty of ownership.

U. S. Squadron Visits Brazil.

SANTOS, Brazil, Feb. 2.—The American squadron, with Rear Admiral Caperton in command, arrived here yesterday. The ships will proceed to-morrow to Sao Paulo, where extensive entertainments have been arranged.

BIG LOAN NEEDED TO PAY U. S. BILLS

Secretary Glass Points to Treasury Deficit.

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The Treasury of the United States is something over \$4,000,000,000 behind to-day, and another big loan will be absolutely necessary to meet the Government obligations—the peace time needs as well as war time ones. This answer was made officially by Secretary of the Treasury Glass to rumors that another loan probably would not be necessary or had been abandoned because of the piling down of war time expenditures and authorizations to the extent of \$15,000,000,000 or more. Because of the persistent rumors and the possibility of public misunderstanding of Treasury operations and appropriation terms, the Secretary issued a formal statement explaining the situation. He pointed out that the piling by Congress of appropriations to the extent of \$15,000,000,000 related entirely to proposed future expenditures, while the problem of the Treasury was in meeting the expenditures already made to win the war, to care for the army still in Europe and to carry forward the ordinary functions of Government. While he did not say so in so many words, he made it plain that the American people having attained victory and peace, must pay the costs.

Since the armistice was signed certificates totalling \$4,231,890,500 have been issued. There is a balance of about \$100,000,000 in the fund and expenditures are still running very high, due to purchase of army supplies for France and the coming in of war bills just reaching the Treasury. As a result it is clear that at least one and perhaps two future loans will be necessary. Gen. Pershing Leaves Paris. PARIS, Feb. 2.—General Pershing, who has been inspecting the American base here for several days, left last night for St. Nazaire.

CHEVROLET automobiles are not on exhibition at the show, but in the Company's own building at Broadway and Fifty-seventh Street. Here we have ample room and facilities to display to an advantage, our complete line of open and closed types of passenger cars and the Chevrolet one ton truck. CHEVROLET MOTOR COMPANY BROADWAY AT 57TH STREET

PERKINS LOSES POTATO SUIT. Steuben County Farmers Get Verdict Against Him for \$884. Special Despatch to The Sun. BINGHAMTON, Feb. 2.—The Steuben county farmers, represented by the commission firm of E. H. Dudley & Co. of Bath, have won their action against George W. Perkins to recover on potato contracts made by Mr. Perkins during the potato famine two years ago when he proposed to supply New York consumers with potatoes at \$1 per bushel. Mr. Perkins refused to pay on the

ground the potatoes were not properly harvested and decayed badly. He presented a counter claim of \$2,046 to offset the complainant's claim of \$1,236 and the jury rendered a verdict against Mr. Perkins of \$884.10. U. S. Investigators Reach Berlin. By the Associated Press. Berlin, Jan. 31 (delayed).—The new official American mission to investigate political, social and economic conditions in Germany for the American peace delegation arrived in Berlin to-day.

JOHN POWELL. Played by JOHN POWELL. DUO-ART Aeolian Company New York. John Powell, the eminent American Pianist-Composer, will give a recital at Carnegie Hall, on Monday, February 3rd. Hear Powell in person and then hear his beautiful playing reproduced by the Duo-Art Pianola Piano.

JOHN POWELL One of the Few Great American Pianists Makes Record-Rolls for THE DUO-ART PIANO. JOHN POWELL is a musician of whom his countrymen should be proud. He has already achieved a position as pianist of highest rank and is now rapidly winning fame as a composer; his writings disclosing great creative ability as well as lofty ideals. John Powell is undoubtedly one of the most interesting American musicians alive today. In the Record-Rolls Powell has made for the Duo-Art Piano, the outstanding characteristics of this pianist are readily noticeable. These are his fine command and unusually clear, distinct tone, coupled with a full realization of both the poetic and dramatic possibilities of the composition. The Duo-Art Piano with its record-rolls made by the greatest pianists of the world and reproducing not only their technique and expression, but their very "personality" as Josef Hofmann says, is the most wonderful musical instrument that genius has yet given to man. To appreciate this great gift, to arrive at a full realization of the extraordinary character of the Duo-Art, you should hear John Powell in his coming recital and then visit Aeolian Hall and hear the Duo-Art's absolutely perfect reproduction of the great artist's playing. Besides its marvelous power to play for you as the great pianists play; besides being a pianoforte of unexcelled merit for hand playing, the Duo-Art provides for the untrained musician a perfect technique, being a Pianola of most advanced type. The Duo-Art is obtainable in Steinway, Steck, Stroud and famous Weber Pianos. Prices from \$975 THE AEOLIAN COMPANY Makers of the Aeolian-Vocalion—the Greater Phonograph. In MANHATTAN 29 West 42nd Street In THE BRONX 207 East 140th Street In BROOKLYN 11 Flatbush Avenue In NEWARK 895 Broad Street

Saks First Sale of the Season Beginning This Morning EVERY SAKS-TAILORED OVERCOAT Reduced to \$32 IN OUR \$50, \$48, \$45, \$43, \$40, \$38 GRADES (Usters Excepted) A small charge for alterations Saks & Company BROADWAY AT 34TH STREET