

U. S. WHEAT PRICE LOW, SAY BARNES

Guarantee Price Here, He Asserts. Rates Elsewhere Are Above. Denies Quotations on Other Foods Are Influenced by This Grain.

Julius H. Barnes, United States Wheat Director, in a statement made public yesterday defends the Government's guarantee price of \$2.28 a bushel for the wheat grower, insisting that the rates now existing in the United Kingdom and wheat producing countries in Europe are much higher. Argentine wheat has jumped to such a figure that it costs 50 cents a bushel more than American wheat for delivery in Europe.

In his desire to correct what he regards as a popular misapprehension of the wheat situation Mr. Barnes accuses the housewife of falling by careless study to buy the foods that will bring down living costs. He said if flour were distributed free to the bakers it would hardly be possible to bring back the 10 cent loaf. To cut prices from the price of a 10 cent loaf would mean knocking 65 cents a bushel from the price of wheat. He said that the cost of the flour is only 50 per cent of the retail price of bread and that bread is still the cheapest food.

The wheat Director backs up his conclusion that the wheat price is fair with a description of the efforts of British dealers to stock up months ahead at the American figure. He said the American market is not being injured by the exportation of wheat to Europe.

Denies Wheat Controls Prices. Mr. Barnes denied that there was any relation between the wheat price and other foods, citing market figures showing greater increases in other commodities than in wheat at any time the world market price of wheat drops. Mr. Barnes said he would not hesitate to make a cut in the guaranteed price, if he was unable to raise the price of wheat to the level of other crops.

In case of profiteering in any city the United States Grain Corporation will jump on the profiteer on the market. Mr. Barnes's statement follows: "Our people should understand the salient facts regarding the world's wheat situation.

Shrinkage in North American promise since June 1 of probably 400,000,000 bushels.

Shrinkage, the result of lesser wheat yield for deterioration in European wheat and rye production, promising outside of Russia, a total bread grain yield of 1,600,000,000, against a normal production of 1,800,000,000 bushels.

The elimination by war and famine of Russia, Rumania and India, formerly contributing to consuming Europe 200,000,000 bushels of wheat.

The advance in Argentine prices under longer voyage and higher freight, Argentine wheat selling in Europe at 50 cents per bushel more than American wheat delivered in Europe.

A broad survey of the world wheat price, actual and guaranteed, in various countries indicates:

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Average farm price to American wheat, Average price in the United Kingdom, Average price in the United States, etc.

Nothing supports the theory of intimate relation and influence between wheat and other foods. In 1917 wheat sold at \$1.70, while corn sold at \$1.74. In September the stabilized farm price of wheat was \$2.17, and continued for months at that price. The present price during September at \$2.24, and continuing during the succeeding months of October and November in the neighborhood of \$2.

"Four-fifths of a May price of \$1.06 per one-sixteenth barrel to 89 cents in September, and thereafter ruled in the neighborhood of 80 to 85 cents for almost a year. The combined price of bread, corn meal, sugar, beans, rice, onions, butter, cheese, steaks, bacon, pork chops, ham, lard, prunes, raisins and eggs rose from 4.02 in May, 1918, to 4.15 in September, and was further advanced until the high point of December, 1918, of \$4.95, since which time there has been a moderate and steady decline. The price of wheat in December, 1918, 82 cents per bushel.

British, France and Italy all have artificially reduced flour and bread prices. Paying their raw material at the world's price and then charging more by national taxes. Any sale of wheat flour by us at reduced prices to them would only save their national treasuries, while depriving ours, and without any possible reflection in the bread price to their people, which is already fixed.

In America flour is 50 per cent of the total cost of bread, and 50 cents per bushel must be taken from the price of wheat. If flour were distributed free to the bakers, 65 cents of labor and other materials remaining the same we could hardly afford to buy a loaf of bread.

"Bread, for example, is already the cheapest item in the diet. At 245 pounds of flour per person per annum, flour costs between 35 per cent, and 48 per cent of the entire loaf, in terms of calories. In other words, about \$16 per year buys over one-third of the income of the average man, and if all other foods were the same rate the total cost of \$50, or a total national food bill of \$900,000,000, present calculated, \$1,800,000,000 is impracticable. It costs \$200 million in teaching housewives through our schools how and what to buy to get food value at reduced expenditure without sacrifice of taste and palatability.

Ready to Readjust Prices. Fortunately, even with our crop deterioration, America has secured a large

Striking Increases in Prices of Grains and Cold Storage Products in a Year

Table with 2 columns: Price in 1918 and Price in 1919. Includes items like Canned tomatoes, Canned corn, Buckwheat flour, Wheat flour, etc.

SOME of the most striking increases in the prices of grain stocks and of cold storage products as given in the report of the commission are listed below. The only decreases were in buckwheat and rye flour.

Price in 1918 Price in 1919. Eggs, fresh (Chicago) June, 29-30 1/2 doz. June, 40-40 1/2 doz. Butter, creamery extra, (Chi.) June, 41c per lb. June, 45c per lb. Frozen poultry (New York) June, 37 1/2c per lb. June, 37 1/2c per lb. Lard poultry (Chicago) June, 31-32c per lb. June, 31-32c per lb.

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crop, and if with later developments a world price is indicated lower than the guarantee basis, the Wheat Director will not hesitate to readjust American flour prices to the expense of the National Treasury, as authorized by Congress, but the wheat facts outlined herewith, and not generally understood, would perhaps lead the impression that higher prices than the guaranteed basis are to be expected.

"Indeed, it is true that European buyers desire to buy to contract their supplies for some time, but the guarantee price, which we shall protect first our home requirements. We feel sure, however, that the guarantee price is a continuation of the fair price of 1917 as being 'fair' between producer and consumer. The expression of \$2.20, Chicago market, uncontrolled, uncontrolled Chicago market of \$2.45, which had become unbearable.

"In the present dislocated state of world supplies and demand, we are justified in desiring to stabilize and stabilize wheat from rising above the guarantee basis, if possible. There is no authority for maximum prices, but there is authority for the consumer. We shall, during the crop period, accumulate a national surplus as a stabilizer against later percentage increases in the price of wheat, and we shall not permit it to rise above national profit. Last year 80,000,000 bushels of Grain Corporation reserves were sold in the spring to help the Government to stabilize wheat prices within bounds. This service will be maintained and our shipments abroad governed for the protection of our home requirements.

"The Grain Corporation is now buying new crop flour at lower by \$1 per barrel than any price ruling in the last four months, and these flour will be available in the fall. Retail prices of flour will soon reflect the influence of the new crop now moving."

Hit Bill Aimed at British Profiteers. Newspapers Condemn Method of Local Trials.

LONDON, Aug. 7.—The Government's sudden decision to proceed with a profiteering bill in Parliament, announced yesterday at a committee meeting, met many adverse comments in today's newspapers. Many of the papers commented on the terms of the bill, which provides for a system of local tribunals, and others expressed dissatisfaction at the decision which interrupted the work of the parliament.

The Socialist Herald said the Government's decision was due to fear that the committee's investigation would reveal the names of profiteers, and that the Food Controller's testimony would be used to the committee's advantage. The Daily Telegraph characterized the proposal as "thoroughly vicious."

RAISE PARCEL POST LIMIT FOR SALE. Action Taken to Aid Army Food Distribution.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Authority to increase temporarily the parcel post weight limit to 125 pounds so that buyers of army food might purchase through postmen and letter carriers, was granted to the Postmaster General today by the Interstate Commerce Commission. It was also announced that during the sale buyers might place several orders at the same time without paying the initial postal charge of 3 cents a parcel.

NEWARK TO GET MORE HAM. Mayor Gets Promise of 150,000 Pounds From Army.

Major Gillen of Newark went out after another consignment of army sugar and ham for sale to the people of his town yesterday and came home with a promise of 150,000 pounds to be delivered within the next few days. The Mayor's first assault on the army stores, which resulted in 30,000 pounds of ham being sold in a day and a half to Newark householders, has made him an avid bargain hunter.

The day of the first sale he received a wire from a firm in Richmond, Va., offering 600 pounds of ham. The Mayor, an active figure, but the Mayor was wary and after an investigation turned it over. His offering to-day will be 30,000 pounds of canned ham, which he expects his hungry constituents to gobble up as quickly as they did the canned vegetables he sold them yesterday.

He tried to persuade the army surplus supply to sell him 100,000 pounds of ham, but they thought Newark would do mighty well to get half that amount, and they so ordered.

Held as Son's Slayer. The Brooklyn police yesterday arrested Arthur Kaufman, a peddler, for the murder Wednesday evening of his son, Samuel, 17, in their home, 215 Hopkins street. The boy's body was found on the floor with two bullet wounds in the chest. The police said that Kaufman denied the killing but admitted having had a quarrel with his son. He was held without bail in Gates Avenue Court. The revolver has not been found.

Physician Shot and Killed by Woman. Street Bullets Causes Excitement in Springfield, Mass.

Special Despatch to The Sun. Springfield, Mass., Aug. 7.—Dr. Henry Zimmerman was fatally shot this afternoon by Miss Jennie Zimmerman as he was walking along a street. She rushed to the Mercy Hospital and died on the way. Miss Zimmerman was closely guarded at police headquarters to prevent her injuring herself. She is a dangerous condition bordering on collapse.

It is not known where Dr. Zimmerman was going when shot, but the police believe he was on his way to the hospital. The conference was in the original draft. The conference lasted until 11 o'clock and a half, the President denying himself to all other callers. He had dismissed action against the packers with District Attorney Clyne earlier in the day.

Each of the Government agencies represented in the conference is to begin a campaign of public enlightenment on living costs as soon as President Wilson's message is printed in the newspapers; all available data on foods, the cost of production, the cheapest varieties and the most easily available sources of supply.

Actions under existing law, it is understood, are not to be confined to prosecutions of criminal actions or civil suits by the Federal Trade Commission. The Federal Trade Commission will proceed against all dealers in foodstuffs and commodities that go into the cost of living to the consumer. Such proceedings will be brought under the Clayton and Federal Trade Commission acts. They will be directed against unfair competition and unfair trade practices designed to keep up prices.

It was indicated to-day that efforts are to be made to break down the close coordination of industry that was built up by Government aid during the war. Close coordination and cooperation, it was pointed out, do not in a great many cases constitute violation of law. The Government will proceed against industry that was built up by Government aid during the war. Close coordination and cooperation, it was pointed out, do not in a great many cases constitute violation of law.

\$10,000,000 JOB TO AID IDLE. Santiago Municipal Council Votes Construction Programme.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Aug. 7.—A \$10,000,000 programme of construction was decided upon to-day by the Municipal Council in order to give work to the unemployed. The programme includes the building of a new bridge, the reconstruction of the city's water supply, and the improvement of the city's drainage system.

Chicago Grand Jury to Get Evidence in Criminal Action Soon. Wilson Reviews Costs. Long Message Asks for Restrictions—No Need for Present Food Prices.

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—President Wilson's message to the Congress and to the people of the United States on the high cost of living has been completed. The full scope of the Government's plans to reduce the high cost of living will be revealed to the people of the country to-morrow afternoon, when President Wilson appears before a joint session of Congress. The President completed his message on the subject late to-day and it is being printed for Congress. In the meanwhile, the recommendations made are being regarded with the greatest interest by the public. The Executive gave the entire day to the food and railroad problems.

The message is one of the longest ever prepared by the President. It is twenty-seven typewritten pages, and will be considerably over 4,000 words in length. It will deal with the facts already brought out by Government investigation tending to show that there are no artificial shortages, and will recommend, it is understood, extension of the Lever food control act and the passage of other laws to meet the situation.

The message will be the first gun in a great publicity campaign of education to give the people the facts with respect to costs, that they may form their own judgments on prices.

Nationwide Drive Started. While the President and his official advisers were in conference on the message, and the steps to be taken by the Government, the nationwide drive to reduce the cost of living has been launched. Municipal and county investigations to check food hoarders and profiteers in their respective localities. They are going ahead on their initiative and bring actions without further recourse to the Department of Justice. The Department is being kept advised by detailed reports of the progress being made in the various cities of the country.

Initial action against the big five packers in New York, St. Louis, Chicago, and St. Paul, is to be taken by District Attorney Clyne of Chicago, who has participated in packer investigations, and was summoned to the White House to-day to establish friendly relations. In respect to the packers would be laid before the Grand Jury in Chicago as soon as it convenes three weeks hence, and that indictments would be asked. This was the first intimation as to the criminal aspect to the packers would be laid before the Grand Jury in Chicago as soon as it convenes three weeks hence, and that indictments would be asked.

Indictments in Chicago will be sought on the ground of alleged conspiracy in restraint of trade, with the aim of artificially raising prices. The packers are to be indicted for the actions which would be confined to meat and meat products, but would go into practically all of the commodities handled by the packers. The packers are to be indicted for the actions which would be confined to meat and meat products, but would go into practically all of the commodities handled by the packers.

The Federal Trade Commission made a significant move in the general campaign to reduce the cost of living when it made public a statement proving that the law of supply and demand was not immutable so far as food prices were concerned. The statement indicated that foodstuffs were being speculatively held in storage "for a world demand which is not now here, but which will be here in a few months, and which will secure higher wages with which higher food prices can be paid."

The commission shows that not counting Government surplus stocks there was a greater supply of foodstuffs in the country on June 1, 1919, than there was on June 1 last year, though prices had actually advanced in the face of this situation.

British Bill Hitting Profiteers Advanced

LONDON, Aug. 7.—The Government's bill providing prosecution and penalties for persons found guilty of profiteering passed the first reading in the House of Commons to-day.

Control of Many Industries. It is understood that action against the packers was undertaken first because of their wide control not only of meats but of other products and commodities in the belt that a wide swath would be cut in a concentrated effort in this direction. The packers, it is alleged, reach into everything from banks and railroads, down to drug stores and other retail establishments.

Mr. Clyne said to-day that civil suits might follow the criminal actions, but he declined to say whether they had not been reached. The principal Federal Trade Commission allegations against the packers are:

The five large packers "are in an agreement for the division of livestock purchases throughout the United States according to certain percentages."

"That the five large companies 'exchange confidential information' and employ jointly paid agents to secure information which is used to control and manipulate livestock markets."

(a) Split shipments purchases; (b) By mail purchase; (c) Writing on; (d) Making the daily market.

That Swift, Armour, Morris and Wilson, the four largest packers, and other companies to resist and obstruct the Government from South America to the United States and other countries.

That the large packers act collusively in the sale of livestock products.

That there is a joint ownership of vast areas of land in the United States.

In its statement to-day pointing out that the law of supply and demand no longer rules with respect to food prices in the country the Trade Commission also pointed out that the packers, canned salmon, canned corn, fresh eggs, butter, salt beef and frozen fowls increased, while the quantities of those foods increased.

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Alleged Unfriendly to American Oil Men Bloeks \$25,000,000 Gift.

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Efforts for an early settlement of the long standing differences between the United States and Colombia growing out of the establishment of the Republic of Panama and construction of the canal received a sudden setback to-day. The treaty pending in the Senate for settlement of all the issues was sent back to the State Department by the President.

When Senator Lodge asked, on behalf of the Foreign Relations Committee, of the treaty, favorably reported a few days ago, be returned to the committee, it was a complete surprise save to a small group of Senators who had been advised in advance of the move.

The act forbids hoarding by householders of such commodities as wheat, wholemeal or retail dealers and by speculators. Hoarding by a householder is the holding or contracting for by him or his family in excess of his own reasonable requirements for use and consumption by self or dependents for a reasonable time.

"Hoarding by a dealer is the holding or contracting for a quantity in excess of the reasonable requirements of his business for use or sale by him for a reasonable time. Hoarding by a speculator is the holding of the market for the purpose of unreasonably increasing the price."

This office is in receipt of a telegraphic copy of the circular issued August 1, 1919, by the Government, giving permission for the sinking of oil wells under certain conditions have been received by the State Department. They have been made public to-day without comment.

The circular provides that companies which have failed to abide by previous regulations regarding the sinking of oil wells, may sink new wells provided that upon the application for the necessary permits from the Federal Executive they file affidavits that the wells would approve the proposed investigation, and that if the Senate acquiesced a sub-committee probably would be appointed to investigate the matter.

Demand for an inquiry by the Senate committee, Senators said, resulted partly from failure of the House committee to pass a resolution now before the Rules Committee, proposing an inquiry into American and Mexican relations.

Copies of the circular issued August 1, by the Mexican Government, giving permission for the sinking of oil wells under certain conditions have been received by the State Department. They have been made public to-day without comment.

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TINOCO HAS QUIT, IS SUMOR. SAN JUAN DEL SUR, Nicaragua, Aug. 7.—A rumor that President Tinoco of Costa Rica has abandoned his office is being circulated persistently in Costa Rican revolutionary circles.

Legion's History Clear. "In addition to these activities which have been organized, ready, it lies within the power of the Legion to institute a system of benefits for old age, disability, etc., and a legal department, whereby the best legal advice may be obtained. There would be men to undertake such work as detailed above, not from the point of view of the hired employee serving his employer, but rather from the point of view of one comrade helping another comrade.

"The history of the actions of the American Legion is as clean as a household name. In its ranks there is a guarantee in the actions of the caucuses composed of men drawn from every State in the Union, of every creed and race, of every nationality, that the Legion will stand in no uncertain terms the St. Louis Convention registered itself on the Bolsheviks; in the confession of faith adopted at the Paris caucus the same principles are set forth.

"As a member of the American Legion, I feel I am a member of the body which truly represents 100 per cent Americanism."

Representative to Redeem Both City and G. O. P. PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 7.—Representative J. Hampton Moore announced tonight his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Mayor of Philadelphia at the primary election in September. In a statement Mr. Moore said he was willing to sacrifice his Congress career in an effort to "redeem the city and the Republican party." He declared he would go to Congress free from pledges and influences, and added:

"I have not asked any leader or faction or committee for his or its support or aid, and I have not incurred the opposition of some. I would not care, therefore, to make any specific declarations that might please one element or another and then rise to plague me in the performance of my duty. I have no hesitation, however, in making this statement as to so-called contractor government, that if it exists now or has heretofore existed it would not be tolerated by me if I were Mayor."

Mr. Moore said that, if elected, he would enforce all the requirements of the new city charter in letter and in spirit.

BRETTON WOODS PLANS GOLF. Champion Player Arrives for Battle on Links.

Special Despatch to The Sun. BRETTON WOODS, N. H., Aug. 7.—Mr. and Mrs. S. J. J. of Saginaw, Mich., who motored here to spend some weeks with Dr. and Mrs. Walter J. Snyder of Philadelphia and Mrs. Stephen Letts of St. Thomas, Ont., accompanied by Misses Patterson and Hendley, were arriving by automobile at the Mount Pleasant Hotel.

Arriving at the Mount Pleasant Hotel has been T. J. Moran, former Bretton Woods golf champion, accompanied by Mrs. Moran, to stop over for a few days. Moran was engaged in a battle to Louis A. Hamilton, Victor E. Byron, Alexander H. Revell, C. J. Dunphy and other noted Bretton Woods golfers.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Robinson of New York are at the Profile, where William B. Stoddard and party arrived from New Haven.

Department of Justice Invites Cooperation of Public in Obtaining Evidence.

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Food profiteers who hoard stocks to create artificial shortages so that they may benefit by the consequent high prices will be prosecuted by the United States Attorney, it was announced yesterday by Earl E. Barnes and Ben A. Mathews, Assistant Attorneys. Victims of profiteering and others who can get direct evidence of exorbitant prices are invited to make their complaints to the Federal Attorney's office here and they will be investigated. In such cases where the facts bear out the complaints criminal prosecution will follow and there will be no delay, because these cases are to be given precedence on the court calendar, it was said.

The punishment for profiteers is not to exceed more than two years in prison or a fine of \$5,000, or both. That the Government means to push prosecution of profiteers indicated in the appointment of Lessor J. Kresel, 37 Wall street, to take charge of the prosecution of the alleged meat packers' combine, which is said to have boosted prices in some cases 100 per cent or more.

A thousand agents of the United States Government are now hunting evidence of food profiteering, and these are expected to be augmented by many more, some volunteers.

City Will Open Stores. The city will start its effort to reduce prices Monday, August 18, when it begins the sale of army food here. Volunteers are called for and should report to the Commissioner of Markets at his office in the Municipal Building. Stores will be located throughout the city and some of the supplies will be sold from trucks on street corners. Dr. Roy E. Copeland, Commissioner of Health, is arranging to have inspectors regulate the conditions under which the food is sold in order to protect the public from any evils of exposure of uncovered foods.

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NEWBURGER TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT

Bar Association Moves to Get Petition Signatures. The committee of the bar will begin within a short time to get signatures on a petition for the nomination of Justice Joseph E. Newburger as the candidate of an independent citizens committee. The name of the organization, the nucleus of which will be lawyers, will be the Independent Citizens Committee. An emblem will be selected, which will be placed on a ballot beside the name of Justice Newburger, along with the Republican emblem and the emblem of the Cleveland Democracy.

Former Justice Francis M. Scott, chairman of the committee of the bar, in a Harbor, William D. Guthrie, chairman of the Independent Citizens Committee, and Louis F. Doyle of the Bronx is secretary.

John J. Roddy Baze yesterday denounced as ridiculous the suggestion that the committee of the bar's designation of the Democratic primaries be and Senator Foley and the other good Tammany men making up the committee on vacancies would designate a man who would be more pleasing to Tammany than the Independent Citizens Committee. He declared the committee would act strictly in accordance with the wishes of the bar associations represented by the committee.

William M. Bennett, who as an insurgent has designated himself as a candidate in the Republican primaries for the office of President of the Board of Aldermen, declared that he would issue a challenge to Representative J. H. La Guardia, the organization candidate, to campaign with him on the evening of Tuesday night from now until election day.

In substance Mr. Bennett declared he was backed by Representative La Guardia, who, he says, would not run on two occasions when he talked to him, once in January and a second time on July 2.

SEELKS TO BAR GRIFFITHS. Ellison Assails Petition in Municipal Court Race.

Mark H. Ellison, insurgent candidate for the Republican nomination for the Municipal Court in the Fifth district, obtained yesterday an order directing Charles E. Griffiths, one of the three others contesting for the nomination with the approval of the organization, to show cause why his petition should not be rejected by the Board of Elections. The order is returnable before Justice Luce on Monday.

Mr. Ellison alleges that Mr. Griffiths lives at 530 West 115th street, which is not in the Fifth district. His petition gives his home as 300 West 109th street.

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