

Profiteers Ship Food to Europe While Americans Face Starving

By ALFRED W. McCANN, FOOD EXPERT.

A dispatch from Herbert Hoover dated Paris, Monday, September 1, 1919, announced that in his opinion a distressing era of speculation in foodstuffs in the United States and throughout the world's primary food markets is largely responsible for high food costs. He declared that wharves and warehouses in northern European ports are overflowing with foodstuffs, principally wheat, fats and dairy products sent by merchants all over the world.

These merchants, according to Hoover, had "gambled" on sales in Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic States and Germany at high prices, for which reason many commodities are in danger of spoiling. He also declared the law of supply and demand is not working normally.

For many months it has been obvious that would-be profiteers and export speculators have been responsible for the artificial maintenance of the high cost of living, but it must certainly surprise Americans to learn, through Herbert Hoover, that the wharves and warehouses of northern European ports are so glutted with foods that they are in danger of spoiling, and it must astonish Americans to hear, through Herbert Hoover, that the law of supply and demand is not functioning normally, for he himself, as is now quite clear, is responsible for the smash-up of the law of supply and demand.

When he caused the price of wheat to be fixed, allowing the price of all other grains to remain unfixed, he broke that law to pieces and it has not yet been put together. America now knows that speculators have bought up extravagant quantities of foodstuffs for shipment to Europe, which they now find Europe doesn't want.

Beginning with November 11, 1918, the exporters were treated daily to enthusiastic stories concerning the colossal demands for food which fashions Europe would immediately begin to make upon America. A veritable orgy in export business was forecast and exporters in spite of themselves were destined to collect millions of dollars in the richest harvest they had ever known. Ships were no longer needed to transport men, munitions or army supplies. They would be released as rapidly as possible for trade purposes.

Of course the speculators jumped over each other in preparation for the great days to come. The submarines and mines no longer threatened and cargo-space became a fascinating dream.

For a while the law of "supply and demand" had lost prestige, but the visions of fabulous demand made it necessary to restore the famous hoax to its former pedestal of glory, in order that prices might be kept up at home.

When there is more food than the people can eat, the price of food is low, says the law of supply and demand. But—when there is less food than they need, the price of food is high.

Unfortunately for the champions of this elastic law, the United States department of commerce has tabulated all the foods exported to Europe from America, and we now know that the would-be exporters actually shipped over to Europe since the signing of the armistice and during the first seven months of 1919, less than one-third the quantity they expected to ship. This leaves a surplus at home, unshipped and unaccounted, so vastly in excess of home needs that America now finds herself glutted with unsold food.

Yet with more food on hand than ever and much more than the people can consume, the price, with the spectacular exception of hogs and cattle, is higher than it was last year, when Europe was making frantic demands on a supply said to be so meager that all of us had to make personal sacrifices in order to stretch it sufficiently to send a part across the sea. Now we are told that that part on European wharves and in European warehouses is in danger of spoiling.

Examine the facts concerning our shrunken exports and our accumulated surplus if you would know how the public is hoodwinked through the highly elastic and accordingly abused law of supply and demand.

In July, 1918, the United States shipped to Europe 15,326,800 pounds of canned beef out of our "meatless day" savings. For this beef we charged Europeans 40 cents a pound.

In July, 1919, although the war was over, and there was so much beef in the country that the United States department of agriculture had to tell the people they could now eat meat three days a day, we exported scarcely a third the quantity shipped during the same month of 1918, when ships and supply were at a premium.

Notwithstanding the excessive supply and the diminished demand, we still charged Europe 40 cents a pound for our shrunken exports.

In July, 1918, we exported 32,056,818 pounds of fresh beef out of what was said to be such a short supply that we all had to eat beef substitutes on meatless days. For this fresh beef we charged Europe 23 cents a pound.

In July, 1919, with 200,000,000 pounds of dressed meats piling up every month in excess of the quantity that could be consumed at home, our exports dropped to one-fourth

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS. Public Health Nursing.



In the midst of its multifarious war duties the American Red Cross did not neglect its obligations to the civilian population at home. Throughout the conflict it maintained its Bureau of Public Health Nursing, instruction in first aid, home nursing and sanitation, and disaster relief. Particularly in their work for the babies was effort by public health nurses important. The accompanying photograph shows a Red Cross public health nurse instructing a mother in the proper preparation of the baby's diet.

Doing Business for Soviet Russia The Real Job of the Soviet Bureau in New York. BY ANISE IN SEATTLE UNION RECORD.

In the midst of raids by the department of justice and rumors of bolshevik propaganda, the real work going on in the soviet bureau in New York is apt to be overlooked. And a very important work it is which Mr. Maartens, business representative of the soviet republic of Russia, is carrying on in his rather large offices.

He isn't spending his time in any already set about cutting down both is the figures of the United States department of commerce conclusively prove.

Europe can't go on paying the high prices America continues to demand. The shrunken rate of exchange already imposes what amounts to an export tax of 15 cents in every dollar's worth she purchases here. Therefore it would appear that the accumulated glut of the United States that we expected to ship but haven't shipped, and the glut on the way must continue to pile up unaccounted unless the present artificial barriers against shipping are broken down.

These artificial barriers are inflated prices. Inflated prices for export can't be deflated without lowering the price for domestic consumption. The American people will not tolerate any flow of American foods into Europe at lower prices than America is obliged to pay at home.

In the meantime, America's problem seems to be to get rid of its accumulating surplus and at the same time to keep prices high. The thing is a paradox.

We are told by economists and public officials that we must continue to expect high prices, for the reason that following the Civil war prices did not return to normal for years. As far as America is concerned there is no similarity between present prices and those that followed the Civil war.

At the end of the Civil war both sides to the struggle were exhausted. The machinery of production in the north and south had been smashed. Today, America's machinery of production is over-functioning somewhere between 50 and 70 per cent in excess of normal.

Livestock, grain and produce farms are growing with abundance. After the Civil war there was no such abundance under which to groan. Obviously the aftermath of the Civil war does not now apply. What, then, shall the profiteers do to maintain the present lofty level in the face of supplies that exceed the demand?

In the meantime, under Section C of the Lever act, the United States department of justice can prosecute hoarders who store foods for an advance in price. But the difficulty of the attorney general and his assistants is that they have no means of tracing speculative sales based on warehouse receipts covering foods held in storage awaiting ships that never sailed.

On several occasions recently I have been called into conference by United States attorneys seeking to devise a system that would enable them to uncover the great quantities of foods that have advanced in value merely through changing hands in storage. They have admitted their discouragement and have practically given up the chase, with the conviction that they are wholly unable to get at the facts. They know that the theory of the present high prices is based on the following phenomena:

When intoxicating visions of a vast export trade began to lure the profiteers with prospects of an extravagant demand from Europe, they began to outbid each other for blocks of foodstuffs which they were sure they could resell at a profit, regardless of the prices paid for them. They believed all they had to do was to wait until ships were released with cargo space for export trade.

Buying from each other it constantly advancing prices, the last man to purchase found himself in possession of a warehouse receipt that had changed hands possibly a dozen times in the process, each change meaning an advance in price.

When the European demand failed, the last holder of the warehouse receipts found himself in the position of one who had invested cash on a gamble that had gone wrong. But the department of justice has no means of tracing the 11 fellows who preceded him.

The public is taking a loss and the public has not been profiteering. Evidently it is up to somebody to shift the loss and the sooner it is taken from the shoulders of the consumer the sooner will discontent and unrest subside to normal.

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fight for liberty, democracy, and all those beautiful things the statesmen have been mouthing about, has not been won "over here," and if you are interested in aiding in the fight, an investment in the FREE PRESS is the most effective assistance you can render.

WORKERS VS. CAPITALISTS

CASUALTIES ON THE VARIOUS FRONTS

Table with columns: Workers (Killed, Wounded), Capitalists (Killed, Wounded). Lists names like Farrell, Buffalo, Newcastle, etc.

printed in this country, because of the lack of paper in Russia. Learning American Processes. This technical department is securing information on the methods and processes of American industry. We have engaged men who have worked in American industry. They prepare instruction for Russia. How to make chilled castiron car wheels, various kinds of steel, vanadium, manganese, the equipment of rolling mills for seamless steel tubing—these are some of the matters we must know. The technical department also furnishes us with the specifications for our purchases here in America.

"What message have you for American labor?" I asked in leaving. But Mr. Maartens refused to be drawn into our affairs. He is the soul of discretion when it comes to interfering with the internal workings of another country.

"They should learn all they can of the precise conditions in Russia," he said, "economic, political and social—and then take such action as seems good to them."

REPUBLICANS (Continued From Page One.)

ment of the mayor to behave in the future considerable interest attaches to tonight's council meeting. The first session to be held following last Thursday night's indignation meeting.

It is anticipated that the mayor will announce the appointment of John Legare for market master tonight and that the appointment will as promptly be denied confirmation by the council, a number of the republican aldermen, at least, voting with the democrats against Legare. In addition there are other matters which are expected to come up tonight which will result in clashes between Mr. Stodden and his fellow republicans on the council.

Altogether, with the expected attendance of scores of consumers and members of various organizations in opposition to the Legare appointment; others who are opposed to the administration's ordinance which is expected to protect the retail milk dealers of the city by prohibiting the sales of milk at the city market by farmers; and additional others who will be on hand to prevent if possible, the adoption of the Kelly garbage disposal contract in its present form, tonight's session of the city council promises to be one of the warmest since Stodden took to presiding.

In regard to the garbage "deal" it is significant that Kelly arrived in town just in time to dictate the specifications. Many citizens are wondering what

Today's Anniversary. Love's Anniversary. Eighteen hundred and one years ago from the days when the Roman poet Virgil in his Aeneid wrote the immortal love story of "Dido of Carthage," the only love story of great worth in Roman literature, another love scene took place in Mantua, the Etruscan city in northern Italy, near which Virgil was born. On Oct. 15, 1757, there was a celebration of the birthday of Virgil, when 50 poor girls were that day married to 50 poor but industrious young men. Handsome dowries, raised by voluntary contributions, among the friends of rural adicly and of learning, were distributed among the newly-wed. One can imagine the pretty scene—the erected altar on the village green, the smoking incense, the happy, shy couples, clad in the picturesque costumes of time, the girls in the veil of white and the crimson velvet bodice, wearing chains and earrings of family pride and heirlooms; the young men in the tuxelot hat and bright-colored shoes. Dido's sorrowful heart-throbs from out her tragic immolation could have cried to the wedding of supreme surprise and happiness. "Love is the only but the awful!"

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