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An ALL Washington Page for ALL Washington People

# The Washington Times

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1919.

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## Senate Probers Find Profiteering Here, But Will Urge No Remedy

Practically no early relief from the gouging of food profiteers is extended to Washingtonians through the recommendations of the Senate District subcommittee in its final report on the results obtained from the recent investigation of the high cost of living in the District of Columbia. "Public opinion," more than remedial legislation, the report points out, is the determining factor that must bring about ultimately a solution of the interlacing marketing problems before the consumer can benefit from any substantial relief from high prices.

The report of the subcommittee, showing that profiteering in foodstuffs and rents exists in Washington on an extensive scale, was submitted to the full District Committee at its meeting today. It represents the work of many weeks of investigation into all phases of living costs affecting the family budget, ordered by the Senate at the request of President Wilson, with a view to reducing the cost of living to the local consumer.

Lacks Constructive Proposals. Taken as a whole, the report consists mainly of a general review of the testimony given before the subcommittee of which Senator Ball of Delaware is chairman, by wholesalers, retailers, middle-men and consumers. From the viewpoint of constructive proposals for legislation to curb profiteering, it is lacking in many respects.

The report, more or less, is a presentation of existing conditions, intended to serve as a basis for study and consideration by the full committee, if it sees fit to recommend a comprehensive bill to cut down the cost of living in the National Capital.

Profiteering in foodstuffs, with retailers branded as the special offenders, is exposed in many pages of sworn testimony. "It is clear that the differential between wholesale and retail prices is very large at the present time, and shows no evidence of decreasing," the report states. "Retail prices frequently are 200 to 300 per cent higher than the wholesale; there has been no check until recently of the retail trade, and the psychology of the public similarly has been in the direction of accepting almost any price rather than to curtail the consumption of goods."

Based on Grocers' Testimony. This statement by the committee was based on testimony representative of the retail grocery stores in Washington. But the charge of profiteering is made not only against the grocers, but against practically all lines of business dealing in foodstuffs.

It was claimed that Washington ranks as the fourth most expensive city in the country in its food budget, and that since 1913 there has been an increase of 95 per cent in the cost of food here as against a 90 per cent increase in the cost of living, the report states.

This much for the retail meat dealer: "Retail meat dealers, for cutting, handling and delivering to the consumer, receive a greater per cent profit than the farmer, the live-stock raiser, buyer, railways, commission men and cold storage and packer combined."

Dealing with the rent situation, the report points out that while the Saultbury resolution served some of its purposes in protecting tenants from exorbitant demands of landlords, it "did not check profiteering in rents."

"That the resolution did not prevent mercenary profiteering in the subrenting of both furnished and unfurnished rooms, apartments, and dwellings is apparent from a glance at the testimony," the report goes on to say.

## SENATOR WALTER E. EDGE OF NEW JERSEY, former newspaperman and governor of that State and owner of one of America's largest advertising agencies, who will address the Ad Club of Washington at its first mid-day luncheon at the New Ebbitt tomorrow.



### EDGE WILL TALK TO D. C. AD CLUB

Senator Walter E. Edge, of New Jersey, will address the first mid-day luncheon of the Advertising Club of Washington at the New Ebbitt Hotel tomorrow noon. The subject of Senator Edge's address will be "How to Make America Better."

### TO ASK FOR MORE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Supt. Thurston Will Request Additional Funds for Salaries. Congress will be asked within the next month to make a special appropriation to enlarge the teaching staff of Washington's public schools, if the Board of Education follows the recommendations of Ernest L. Thurston, superintendent of schools, to be made sometime this week in a report on conditions in the schools.

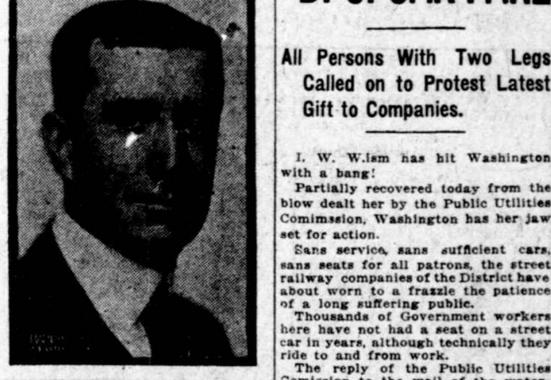
### 4 PERFORMANCES FOR RELIEF FUND

The performances that are being given on Thursday and Friday afternoons for the benefit of the Serbian children aid fund, at 4:30 o'clock, at the Belasco Theater, and Thursday and Friday nights at the Wardman Park Inn, promises to be very exceptional.

### NEED 350 IN D. C. TO TAKE CENSUS

No Restrictions as to Working Hours Placed on Appointees. About 350 volunteers are needed to help put the District on top of the list in the census enumeration in January.

## DAN WOMEN FROM 60 P. C. OF U. S. JOBS



### THOMAS B. SWEEHEY, 1637 Connecticut avenue northwest, who is chairman of the committee conducting the American Red Cross drive for 100,000 additional members and \$100,000 to pay for Red Cross war work.

Protest Filed Is Based on Civil Service Record for First Half of Year. Women were barred from 60 per cent of the Government positions for which examinations were held in the first six months of this year, according to a report submitted this morning to the Congressional Joint Commission on Reclassification of Salaries by the Woman's Bureau of the Department of Labor.

It was the opening gun of an extensive campaign to gain a greater equality for women in the Government service. The report was made in response to a request from the National Federation of Federal Employees in a resolution adopted at the recent national convention. The Federation charged a disparity between women's opportunities for advancement, promotion and rates of pay as compared with men in the Federal Civil Service.

The reclassification commission already has given considerable attention to women's positions, exclusive of because more than 60 per cent of Federal workers in Washington are women. Miss Gertrude McNally heads a special committee, named by the commission, to take care of women's interests.

Examined 200 Positions. Miss Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, in submitting the report to the reclassification commission, states the bureau has examined 200 classes of positions, exclusive of manufacturing and mechanical positions in the ordnance factories, quartermaster depots and navy yards, and exclusive of unskilled labor.

From these investigations, it was found women were not allowed to compete in 16 per cent of the clerical positions offered. The report declares that although from the civil service law of 1870 "has sprung the custom of opening examinations, or closing them, to either sex at the discretion of the heads of any department," there is neither a rule nor a law for such action.

Positions Under Ban. The types of Government positions from which women were excluded in the first six months of 1919 and the proportional number of instances in which they were not allowed to compete were: Clerical service, 15.9 per cent; managerial and other expert office service, 25 per cent; miscellaneous professional service (editorial work, teaching, scientific, etc.), 20 per cent; mechanical and manufacturing service, 87 per cent; domestic, reformatory and rural service, 83 per cent; economic and sociological service, 100 per cent; biological science, 61.5 per cent; physical science, 65 per cent; medical science, 75 per cent, and engineering, 67.5 per cent.

More than 800,000 women are employed in scientific or professional positions outside the report; more than 2,000,000 women are working in private manufacturing and mechanical establishments, and more than 600,000 are in clerical occupations.

Therefore, the report suggests, the question arises as to what is the character of the Government work in which women are not allowed to participate.

## LOUISE CLAY, known at the Washington Asylum Hospital as the "mystery girl." Four weeks' search by the police have failed to locate relatives or friends of this sixteen-year-old girl. Do you know anything about her?



### NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW THIS GIRL

Four weeks of diligent search in and within a radius of 30 miles of Washington, in which every available agency of the Police Department, Associated Charities and officials of the Washington Asylum Hospital took part, have failed to find relatives, or acquaintances of a sixteen-year-old girl, who "doesn't care what happens" to her, and is now being held at the District Jail.

The girl gives her name as Louise Clay, her address as 133 Franklin street, Richmond, Va. She was taken in charge about a month ago in Union Station by a worker of the Travelers' Aid Society. She is very willing to talk and tells police officers and others investigating her case, that she has a stepfather and three sisters and gives their addresses. Inquiry at these addresses have failed to find the persons she claims as her relatives. She also gives the names of friends and former employers, but, although the names and addresses are correct, the persons deny any knowledge of being acquainted with the girl.

Dr. Frank Abbott, superintendent of the hospital, has become interested in the girl and is trying to find her relatives or friends. The girl is in excellent physical condition, is proud of her looks and seems to have an average education.

## COURT ASKS CAUSE IN EVICTION SUIT

Justice Bailey, in the District Supreme Court today, issued a rule requiring Alex J. Wedderburn, Jr., Maurice Spain, United States marshal for the District, and Blanche Neff, clerk of the Municipal Court, to show cause October 24 why they should not be enjoined from evicting Madge B. Smith from her apartments at 1454 Euclid street northwest.

The latter alleges that April 4, last, Wedderburn rented from H. L. Thurston apartment No. 4 at 1454 Euclid street, with the understanding that he should have the privilege to sublet the same. Mrs. Smith declares she leased the apartment from Wedderburn July 15, last, at a monthly rental of \$50, and that October 2, last, Wedderburn sued her in the Municipal Court for the possession of the apartment for alleged default of rent.

Mrs. Smith says she is willing to pay whatever the court may decide, and sets forth that under the Saultbury law no eviction may be had as long as the rent is paid.

EXHIBITION EXTENDED. The exhibition of etchings, sketches, and photographs of ball towers in rooms 46 and 47 of the New National Museum has been extended until the end of October, it was announced today. The exhibition is being given under the auspices of the Arts Club of Washington and includes a great variety of selections.

## What's Doing; Where; When

- Today. Meeting—East Washington Citizens' Association, 341 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, 8 p. m.
- Meeting—Monday Evening Club, Cosmos Club, 8 p. m.
- Meeting—Dunbar Community Center, 1015 14th street, 8 p. m.
- Meeting—Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers, Local No. 96, 735 p. m.
- Board Room District Building, 8 p. m.
- Meeting—Georgetown Citizens' Association, Potomac Park, 8 p. m.
- Meeting—Zihlman, speaker, 8 p. m.
- Dance—War Camp Community Center, 915 Tenth street northwest, 8 p. m.
- Dance—Home Club, 1825 H street northwest, 8 p. m.
- Dance—Hill Community Center, Hiatt place and Lamont street northwest, 8 p. m.
- Moving pictures—Assembly Hall, Central Y, 178 G street northwest, 8 p. m.
- Meeting—Motel Choral Society, Luther Memorial Church, Thomas Circle, Fourteenth and N streets northwest, 7:45 p. m.
- Dance—Under direction of Jewish Welfare Board, Camp Humphreys, 8 p. m.
- Meeting—Dramatic and Mandolin Clubs, Potomac Park, 8 p. m.
- Dance—Thomson Community Center, Twelfth and L streets northwest, 8:45 p. m.
- Tomorrow. Singing—Hampton Institute Quartet, under auspices of Miner Normal Commu-

## DR. LEWIS H. KRASKIN

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(Formerly Manager of the Optical Department of A. Kahn.)  
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Where He Will Be Glad to Renew Professional Relations With His Former Patients and Friends.