The Weather
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CHICAGO HOLDS KEY TO H. C. L. SAYS EXPERT

Nobody Seems To Know Very Much About Large Increase in Prices

STUDENT OF ECONOMICS TO MAKE INVESTIGATION

Producers of Food Stuffs Are Trying To Solve Marketing Problems

Editor's Note—This is the first of a series of articles on the costs of foods and reasons for soaring prices.

By H. P. BURTON.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—I have come to Chicago, "hog-butcher for the world," and dealer, too, in vasty manner, in wheat and corn and oats and all the other foods that go to nourish the nation, to find out, if possible, who it is who is constantly putting more and yet more "high" in the already too-Alpine "high cost of living."

Stuffs Assembled.

Here, where the stuffs of life are so largely assembled for distribution throughout the land, it seems apparent that, if anywhere, a finger of discovery may be placed on the sources responsible for the abnormal cost of necessities to the ultimate consumer—you and me and all the rest of the 101,000,000 Americans who are being pinched today as never before.

Holds Key.

That the city of Chicago does hold the key to this problem of what is making the cost of living so high seems evidenced by the fact that it is here the grain brokers and the meat packers have been "investigated" time and again (yet the price of meat and of flour were never so high before!); and it is here, too, that Frank Norris gathered material for "The Pit," his wonderful novel, showing up the way board of trade gamblers speculate in wheat, and it is also here that Upton Sinclair came to get data for "The Jungle," his book on meat packing that stirred this nation to the deeps.

Cold Facts.

Yet here in Chicago, the distributing center of the United States, as a matter of plain, cold fact, there is scarcely a single bit of ready-to-hand information regarding this subject of the greatest importance to all of us. I have failed to find, in other words, any official or unofficial co-ordinated statistics or "findings" treated constructively so that they have been made to yield, or even to point to the reasons, lawful or unlawful, sound or unsound, for the continuous and alarming rise in the curve of living costs in the United States!

I have discovered plenty of isolated government reports on some certain mere "phases" of the general subject; but absolutely no definite, conscious tracing of the processes of producing any single important article of food from start to finish, with each item of the process systematically held up for analysis and inspection so the flaws, if any, may be publicly exhibited and eliminated.

That is to say, I have found that there is not in existence today any up-to-the-minute informative and authoritative economic treatise on any such subject, for instance, as "meat from the manager to the platter," of "wheat from the seed to the bun," although the manner in which bread and steak are aviating as never before in history seems to be the main topic of interest with everyone—except officialdom!

Credits Conference.

My discovery of this lack of accurate information has struck me, indeed, as an amazing lack in a republic responsible for the well-being of a hundred million souls, a republic that so preciously sees to it that you can mail your letter for a trifling two cents, but which doesn't care a hang how much you pay for your bread and your meat—or which apparently won't care, if its attitude is carried to the ultimate conclusion, whether finally you will be able to buy bread or meat at all or not!

Luckily, however, for us consumers, I find that there is an organization which has begun to act as sort of a foster "paternal government" for us in place of our present apathetic state. This national organization is called "The National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits," and has grown out of various co-operative producing leagues formed in several states.

So dire does this organization visualize our national needs that they sent out a call for the growers and marketers of meat cattle, for the producers of grains and milk and other raw foods of primary importance, to meet in a great conclave in Chicago this week, that the problems attendant upon the making efficient of these producing and distributing processes

(Continued on Page Two)

GRAND BALL OPENS THEATRE COMPLETED AT RYDER

Ryder, N. D., Dec. 8.—A grand ball, at which 62 couples attended, opened the new Orpheum theatre in this village last evening. The grand opening was celebrated by people from Makoti and Parshall. The Abbott six-piece orchestra featured.

"WIRELESS MESSAGES" TO KILL LEAD TO ASYLUM

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 8.—Wireless messages yesterday sent John Gallagher to the St. Peter asylum. Gallagher recently terrorized White Bear village residents. He said he had received wireless messages telling him to kill certain persons.

MAY BE NEW U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOHN W. DAVIS

Washington looks upon Davis as the probable successor of Attorney General Gregory, who, it is reported, will resign. Davis is solicitor general and was representative from West Virginia. He is 43, and a graduate of Washington and Lee university.

VILLA SPARES LITTLE EXCEPT HIS INTERESTS

Re-Opening of Telegraphic Communications Brings Stories of New Outrages

GOVERNMENT TROOPS TO NUMBER 15,000 DESERT

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 8.—Re-opening of telegraphic communications between Chihuahua City and the border brings information of massacres and outrages upon citizens of the United States and foreigners in all parts of northern Mexico, according to word reaching relatives in the United States.

Spares Only Own Interests.

Indications seem, according to reports reaching here last week, that Villa's attitude toward "Gringos" and foreigners is changed and has proved misleading. All information now reaching border points is to the effect that the bandit chief is sparing lives only when his own interests are at stake.

It is reported that Ynea Salazar, Villa's chief lieutenant, saved the million-dollar owned American Alvado mines and saved the town of Parral from destruction, arguing to his chief that the mine will be useful when he obtains control of the country.

Government Troops Desert.

Authoritative statements have been made claiming that 15,000 government troops have deserted and joined Villa during the march on Parral and marched northward toward Chihuahua City.

Villistas, it is reported, have murdered William Snyman, according to telegrams received by friends. No official word has been received concerning the American rancher, Foster, reported to have been slain near Torreno.

Mystery At Hotel Van Horn—Big Ben Falls Three Stories

Something must have gone decidedly wrong in a room on the third floor of the new Van Horn hotel this morning to have prompted Big Ben, an alarm agitator against sleep, owned by Miss Cassie Brink, a clerk in the Lucas department store, to try and commit suicide.

Drops Three Flights.

Big Ben dropped from the window of a room on the third floor of the hostelry early today, through the plate glass canopy in front of the hotel, and escaped without a scratch. As for the canopy, one of the plate glasses was smashed. It was a narrow escape for Big Een, but he's up and working again this afternoon and willing to forgive all.

Air of Mystery About It.

There's an air of mystery about the affair, as to what prompted Big Ben to take the three-story leap through space. No one seems to know. A rumor, however, has it that Big Een's owner is enthused with her bed at the hotel and would like to have slept all morning, but "a certain little thing happened."

Ben Got "Shooting Off."

It is believed that Big Ben got "shooting off," and that his owner jumped from her bed, seized the agitator by the neck and hoisted him out of the window. Ben's flight through space then began. He made quick time, struck the canopy, went right through it and fell on the cement sidewalk.

Still Talking When Found.

Clerks and others rushed out of the hostelry. Big Ben kept right on talking to himself. The owner evidently had her sleep out.

LAD SKATES INTO AIR-HOLE AND HAS A NARROW ESCAPE

Hankinson, N. D., Dec. 8.—August Frankfurth, 15, nearly drowned in the Knaak slough, just west of this city, when he skated through an air-hole. He managed to cling to the edge of the ice until his companions were successful in rescuing him.

ROBINSON CALLS SUPREME COURT PICKED TRIBUNAL

Justice-Elect Derides and Defies Provisional Body in Long Tirade

"FOOL" AND "CROOK" TERMS EXCHANGED

Dignity Thrown to Winds in Heated Discussion—Decision Deferred

Denunciation defiance, derision and disdain were rained on the heads of District Judges Pollock, Nuessle, Crawford and Leighton, sitting as the supreme court of North Dakota, and retiring Justices Fisk, Burke and Goss for the space of an hour yesterday afternoon by Justice-elect Robinson.

The scene enacted in the house chamber at the capitol in the presence of a hundred or more spectators, was one probably without parallel in the history of civilized government. The spectacle was that of three supreme courts on trial; of a supposedly constitutionally composed chief tribunal set at defiance and bridled by citizens who had appeared at the bar in response to the orders of this court.

Court Can do Nothing.

"The present court can do nothing that will not be subject to review by the three justices who have organized as the supreme court," declared Justice-elect Robinson, after denying any jurisdiction upon the part of the proviisonal court.

"As the supreme court of this state we have jurisdiction over all inferior courts. We have warned you—if you insist on doing what you propose to do, let the peril be on your heads.

Judges Disqualified.

"I had thought of filing affidavits showing why two or more of the judges here present should not serve in this matter, but my associates preferred to rest everything on the question of jurisdiction.

"I and my associates were elected justice of the supreme court by majorities of 18,000 to 24,000. Our right to hold office should not be subject to a contest. If I had been in the place of these ex-judges I would never have served one day after that election. But they are infatuated with office—they hold on with a grip like death.

Might Give Advice.

"I deem it right and proper, gentlemen, that you should consider this case to the extent of giving advice and counsel, and, perhaps, extend sympathy and condolences to the defeated candidates.

Have Certificates.

"The three justices who now demand their seats on the supreme bench have certificates of election dating from the first Monday in December, 1916. The certificates of election of Judges Goss, Burke and Fisk read to hold office from the first Monday in December, 1910. If Judge Goss has allowed someone else to draw a month's salary for him, that is his fault. To say that he did not take office the first Monday in December, 1910, because the secretary of state or someone else told him not to is a silly plea. If I were to go into a contest in this matter and chose to recognize your authority, I would prove all these facts by the secreary of state."

"Picked Their Friends."

After again taunting the retiring justices with their recent defeat, Justice-elect Robinson proceeded:

"They have called on and picked you, gentlemen, as the most likely men to decide the case in favor of the ex-judges; They have called you to decide in their favor, as the special friends of the three judges."

Leighton Takes Exception.

Here Judge Leighton of Minot took strenuous exceptions to the manner in which Robinson was addressing the court. The latter replied that they were there not as members of a court but as fellow-citizens. Judge Pollock, acting as chief justice, insisted that Robinson stick to his case, and the court passed to the next respondent.

Grace States Stand.

Justice-elect Grace stated he could not recognize the jurisdiction of the court for the resaon that the constitution provides the district judges called in should be disinterested and should be summoned by disinherited parties. In the present instance, he contended, none of the justices were disinterested, and none had any right to compose a court.

"I truly believe," concluded Grace, "that you are without jurisdiction and that any settlement of this question by you will not be a final settlement but must recur again and again."

"Do you contend that no tribunal is provided by the constitution for a case such as this?" asked acting Chief Justice Pollock.

"I contend," replied Grace, "that the justices who called you in were interested and that, therefore, you are disqualified."

All Interested.

William Lemke, attorney for the justices-elect, on the question of jurisdiction said:

"Judges Bruce and Christianson are just as much interested as the retiring judges. Whatever may be done by any judges purporting to represent the supreme court from this time on will not necessarily tend to have any weight with the incoming justices."

Retiring Justices Speak.

Retiring Justices Goss, Burke and Fisk spoke in defense of their claim that the terms of supreme court justices shall begin the first Monday in

(Continued on Page Two)

GREEK PORTS BLOCKADED TO FORCE NATION

Allies Will Attempt To Starve Government Into Compliance To Demands

SUPPLIES TO LAST FOR TWENTY DAYS

Alien Population With Exception of Italians Have All Fled

London, Dec. 8.—Disciplining of Greece by the allies has begun. A blockade of Greece ports has been formally announced by the French government which, combined with previous British-French orders against the movement of Greek vessels from the harbor, is expected to cut the kingdom off from supplies.

A dispatch from Athens said that an Italian colony is the only one of alien citizens remaining. Greece has supplies enough to last for 20 days against a blockade.

GUARDS OVER BODY OF LATE OIL MAGNATE

Tarrytown, N. Y., Dec. 8.—Two heavily armed guards watched over the vault in Sleepy Hollow cemetery, which holds the remains of John D. Archbold, laid away yesterday.

They will be relieved in the evening by two others and the watch will be maintained until the body is placed in the crypt.

The arrangements were made at the request of Mrs. Archbold, who would give no explanation or any reason.

EGG CORNER IS SMASHED

Chicago, Dec. 8.—The corner in eggs and other produce appears smashed. Eggs dropped six cents and potatoes slumped 15 cents a bushel. Five hundred grocers have been ordered to appear before the federal grand jury. Metz, the "egg king," is stuck with 72,000,000 eggs on hand.

Kansas Boycott Effective.

Kansas City, Dec. 8.—Not officially effective till Sunday, the egg boycott is already bringing down the high cost of living. Merchants are carrying signs on their trucks: "To Help Beat the Egg Trust, Don't Eat Eggs."

Meat prices are expected to follow other commodities downward, following subpoenaes on meat jobbers by District Attorney Clyne.

CALLEDONIA SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUNK

London, Dec. 8.—The Anchor Line steamer, Caledonia, is believed to have been sunk. It was a British steamer of 9,805 tons and of Glasgow register.

Three Cheers for "Home, Sweet Home" Given by Co. "A"

Three rousing cheers were given for "Home Sweet Home" by the "boys" of Company A, First Infantry, North Dakota National Guard, when they attacked their Thanksgiving dinner last week, writes Captain A. B. Welch to The Tribune.

"I desire to express my personal thanks and the gratification of the members of Company A to the people of your city who contributed so liberally and practically for the comfort and happiness of the "boys of Bismarck."

He adds that the quartermaster department furnished 130 pounds of real turkey and that the Thanksgiving boxes from Bismarck were opened and every one "sat down to a real sure enough Thanksgiving dinner.

13 SHOPPING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

TEUTONS PREPARING FOR BIG OFFENSIVE AND DRIVE TO REGAIN MONASTIR AND MACEDONIA

FIGURE IN RECONSTRUCTION OF BRITISH MINISTRY; MAY FORM WAR COUNCIL

These five men are prominently concerned in the reconstruction of the British ministry, to form what Lloyd-George says should be a war council for stricter prosecution of the war.

Top, left to right: Sir Edward J. Carson, Unionist member from Ireland; Herbert A. Asquith, prime minister and first lord of the treasury; Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies.

Lower, left to right: David Lloyd-George, secretary for war; Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty.

FRANCE PLANS TO RECONSTRUCT HER ADMINISTRATION

Changes Will Not Be Made in the Cabinet But Shakeup in Staff

CONCENTRATE CONTROL OF MILITARY PLANS

Paris, Dec. 8.—France is making preparations to reconstruct her government following the upheaval in England that brought about the downfall of the Asquith ministry. There will be a thorough re-organization of the general staff and a concentration of military plans under a smaller governing body.

STEPS FOR COST SYSTEM TAKEN BY GRAIN MEN

Chicago, Dec. 8.—Farmers of the great grain states of the middle west and north, believing that less than a fair share of the profits of their labor is returned to them, took the first steps here today to establish a cost system for their industry.

In connection with the national conference on marketing and farm credits, representative grain growers discussed various means of detemining marketing costs from the field, through the elevators, the mills and to the housewife's oven with the ultimate object of lessening the cost to the consumer and attracting a larger portion of what the consumer pays, direct to the producer.

Lynn J. Frazier, governor-elect of North Dakota, who arrived at the head of a delegation of North Dakotans in two special trains from the northwest, was the chief speaker, telling of the handicaps that have hindered the shippers of his state and toward the removal of which the state adminstration is pledged to work.

WAGE BOOST FOR OVERLAND MEN

Toledo, O., Dec. 8.—An increase in the wages of the Willys-Overland automobile employes at Toledo and Elmira were announced today. Twenty-one thousand men are benefited. The increase amounts to $1,925,000 yearly.

FOUR STORY BUILDING DESTROYED BY FIRE

Cedar Rapids, Ia., Dec. 8.—Kimball's four-story office building has been destroyed by fire. The loss is $250,000.

ASQUITH'S PARTY DECIDES TO STAND BY LLOYD GEORGE

Liberals Meet and Adopt Resolutions Pledging Support to Little Welshman

HERCULEAN TASK BEFORE HIM TO FORM MINISTRY

London, Dec. 8.—Lloyd-George seems to be solidifying political factions in his attempt to form a new ministry that will give closer and more efficient control over war plans. At a meeting today of the liberal party members, resolutions were adopted expressing confidence in their leaders and former Minister Herbert Asquith. The members also expressed their determination to support the new Lloyd-George government in the prosecution of the war.

It is agreed everywhere that the little Welshman is facing a herculean task. The formation of the new ministry must typify England's determination to wage the war to the bitter end.

Good Material.

Lloyd-George has plenty of excellent material from which to draw his cabinet. Among the names which were most prominently mentioned today as possible ministers were:

Bonar Law, unionist; Lord Curzon, Unionist; the Earl of Derby, Unionist; Lord Milner, Unionist; Winston Churchill, Liberal; Lord Robert Cecil, blockade minister in the late cabinet, Unionist; Arthur Henderson, minister of pensions in the late cabinet, Laborite; Lord Davenport, Unionist; Sir Henry Dalziel, Liberal, and Lord Reading, Liberal.

The present complexion of the house is: Unionist 237, Liberal 260, Labor 37, Irish Nationalist 75, O'Brienites 9, Independents 2. It is believed the new cabinet maker will eventually be able to enlist the support of the labor party, in view of his known purpose more liberally to recognize that party's claims in the new ministry. Only one member, Arthur Henderson, member of pensions, was on the Asquith coalition cabinet. The Labor party has heretofore been very antagonistic to Lloyd-George.

JURY ACQUITS MRS. BUTTINGER

Newark, N. J., Dec. 7.—The jury late today acquitted Mrs. Margaret Buttinger on trial here on the charge of murdering her husband because he caressed her.

AMERICAN KILLED.

Washington, Dec. 8.—State officials have received word that Dr. Fisher, an American, has been killed by bandits at Santa Rosalia. The killing is said to have occurred some days ago.

TROOPS MOBILIZING

Rumania Practically Under German Rule and Military Government Established

PLIGHT OF REFUGEES IS VERY DESPERATE

Every Commercial City of Importance in Conquered State in Hands of Enemy

BATTLESHIP SUNK.

Paris, Dec. 8.—Official confirmation has been given of the sinking of the French battleship Suffren. It is classified as an 18-knot battleship of 12,750 tons. It cost $6,000,000 and was authorized July 18, 1899.

London, Dec. 8.—German troops along the whole Monastir front are being strongly reinforced. Presumably these forces are being diverted from the Rumanian theater. It is believed here that the Germans are preparing for an immense offensive against the Frank-Serbian-Italian-British forces in Macedonia.

The Bulgarian forces are being heavily re-inforced by German troops no longer needed in the conquering of Rumania.

Official dispatches from the Macedonian front declare that all enemy attacks have been repulsed. In Dobrudja, on the Bulgarian left front, the enemy is slowly entrenching.

Paris reports state that that Serbians and allied forces repulsed three Bulgarian attacks.

London's Report.

London dispatches state that the Rumanian retirement before the Teutonic invaders was masterly and orderly and that the losses were small.

The news from Berlin, however, claim that evacuation of Rumanian teritory by the defenders was at a terrific los in men and property. In a battle on the Alt, the Rumanians lost 8,000 men and 16 cannon.

Have Principal Cities.

Not only is Bucharest, but most of the important Rumanian commercial towns are now under the control of Germany.

A United Press correspondent accompanying Falkenhayn's army draws this graphic word picture of the retreat of the Rumanians:

Military Governor.

It is to bring order out of this chaos that Gen. von Tulff, former military administrator of Poland, before Warsaw's fall, has been named German governor-general of Rumania. He is now enroute here with two generals and an entire staff.

Rumanians Plunder.

The Rumanians ordered from their homes by their government, clogged the roads, most of them with a few belongings packed on small oxen carts. The advancing Germans overtook these refugees. Then they turned back toward their homes only to find in thousands of instances that everything they had left behind had been plundered by other Rumanians. As we rode through Rammicu and Walkia the wildest anarchy prevailed. The streets were littered with household goods, papers, window curtains, dead horses and dogs. Meanwhile bands of Rumanian gypsies went from house to house and shop to shop, smashing windows and again plundering the homes already half destroyed. These plundering bands—men, women and children—piled what they could not carry on their own backs on stolen horses or cows. It was the same sight we encountered in scores of other Rumanian villages.

Stealing Cattle.

Meanwhile the fleeing families are returning and enroute they are stealing cattle liberated at the first word of the German advance. Because of deprivations and the roaming of the muddy, cold Rumanian roads, the mortality of children among these miserable refugees has been very high. In Alexandria, the plundering reached such a height that a few educated families, which remained behind formed a civilian force to protect their property. These are few of the conditions which face the new governor-general von Tulff: Not only will he seek to restore order, but it is also his task to organize the forwarding to Germany of the vast surplus stores of grain, cattle and petroleum which have fallen into the invaders' hands. Alexandria alone possesses $1,000,000 worth of stores. Other cities are almost equally well stocked. Wallachia itself is a food paradise.

Bridges Destroyed.

Because the Rumanians destroyed many of the railway bridges the entire German campaign in Rumania was by wagons over the ordinary highways. One sees thousands of columns of these with ammunition, food, weapons and military supplies.

Although the Germans have had control of Western Rumania only a few days laborers are already clearing the railways and assembling freight cars, engines and materials which the fleeing Rumanians left.

I saw whole stretches over which trains were in operation and while at Gen. von Krafft's headquarters I met a German major assigned to take charge of the Rumanian transportation system. One ironical incident connected with the railway situation was that we met two engneers in Caracalu and Alexandria, who had been sent to those two cities by the Rumanian government to make plans for

(Continued on page 4.)