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CIRCULATION 29,585  
NOVEMBER 29, 1920

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URGES WAGE CUTS  
TO BOOM BUILDINGAbsolutely Necessary Says  
Senator Calder, Recon-  
struction Chairman

## BUILDER MUST PROFIT

Unless Producer Can See Gain  
House Shortage Will Be  
Even More Acute

## HE RAPS COAL PROFITEERS

Says Government Must Act  
to Curb Them; Would Have  
Federal Agency ControlBY DAVID M. CHURCH  
U. S. Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Reduction in wages is one of the remedies for America's shortage of houses, Senator Calder said, warning the senate committee on reconstruction, declared in the senate this afternoon. His committee recently completed an exhaustive and nationwide survey into housing conditions.

High transportation and fuel costs are discouraging building, Senator Calder said, but there can be no reduction in these costs "unless there is a corresponding reduction in wages."

With regard to labor in the building industries, Senator Calder declared, "it is evidence that we are approaching a period when the cost of labor must be reduced. When the cost comes, labor must share its part."

Never to Pre-War Level.

"Building construction prices will never come back to the pre-war level," Senator Calder said, warning that "unless the producer can make profits the shortage of houses will continue; in fact, it will become even more embarrassing than it is today."

Senator Calder suggested the following plans for encouraging building:

Legislation providing that fifty per cent of savings deposits may be loaned on mortgages.

Reduction of high wages.

Tax exemption for incomes from mortgages.

Restriction of the issuance of tax exempt securities.

Creation of a home loan banking system.

Reduction of wages when living costs are reduced.

Cancellation of all transportation prices on coal.

Establishment of a department of construction.

Discussing the fuel situation, Calder reiterated his previous statements that coal profiteering must be checked by the government.

Government Must Act.

"Private interests now in control of the production and distribution of coal are actually unable to prevent a continuance and repetition of the present deplorable situation, and it is the duty of the government to take such reasonable and practical steps as it may to remedy the situation," Senator Calder said.

He urged the first step in remedying the situation is to establish a federal agency to which all coal producers would submit complete reports of prices, distribution and production.

Senator Calder opposed subsidy for home building.

"The construction of houses is like other business, based entirely upon the profit in the venture and must build houses again when they can see an opportunity for gain," Senator Calder declared.

"Assurance by the states of bonds for public improvements have been unduly encouraged," under the present federal tax system, Senator Calder said. "These securities are being taken from the mortgage field almost completely the private investor," thereby reducing money available for building purposes, the senator declared.

"Labor is a big problem," the senator said. "There is no question that labor has been inefficient since the war. I think it is fair, however, to say that in recent months the efficiency of labor has increased. There is evidence that we are approaching a period when the cost of labor must be reduced. When the cost comes, labor must share its part."

More Skilled Labor Needed.

Senator Calder urged steps to increase the training of skilled labor.

"The country has a retarded business and discouraged building industry," he said.

During the past year, Senator Calder said.

Declaring in conclusion that it is time for the government to pay closer attention to the housing situation and human welfare, Senator Calder said, "would it not be better to act now than to wait and have the people of America rise up in discontent and demand that the government itself go into the housing business?"

British Insulted Old Glory  
Displayed Before Irish Home  
Says Witness at U. S. Probe

New York Woman Says She Heard Soldiers Ordered to "Tear Down That American Flag and Tramp on It;" Windows Smashed and Stores Looted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Myrtle Mohan of Corona, L. I., today testified before the American commission investigating conditions in Ireland that British soldiers had been ordered to "tear down that American flag and tramp on it," when she had hung the emblem in front of her parents' home in Queens town.

Two men in officers' clothing led the soldiers and one of the men in an officer's uniform had attempted to climb the post upon which the flag was mounted, Mrs. Mohan testified.

Unsuccessful in their attempt, she declared, the soldiers, shouting epithets, smashed all the windows of the house. She declared she had protested to the American consul.

Could Get No Satisfaction.

"I said I was a guest in a British town under British protection and to secure protection as an American, suggested that I take shelter in the American consulate," Mrs. Mohan testified.

"I wanted to send a cable to my husband in New York to get the facts before the proper authorities, but the American consul said it would be useless to send the cable as the British authorities would not permit it to go through."

Mrs. Mohan testified that on the day the flag incident occurred, August 27, last, drunken British soldiers smashed windows in shops and stores.

"I then asked him to send a cable about it to the United States, but he said the British government probably would not let it go through. So I sent a message to my husband in New York, but he did not make it past the censor, he feared it might hurt injury to me."

The consul said: "Of course, you know they hate Americans."

A deposition by Mrs. Robinson accompanied the letter. Resuming her testimony about the flag incident, Mrs. Mohan said the next day she reported the matter to the American consul.

"He said he would make a note of it and talk with the commanding officer of the military," she further testified.

The consul said: "Of course, you know they hate Americans."

A deposition by Mrs. Robinson accompanied the letter. Resuming her testimony about the flag incident, Mrs. Mohan said the next day she reported the matter to the American consul.

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CHARGE 5 FIRMS  
IN PAINT TRUSTCollusion and Price-Fixing  
Alleged in Handling  
of White Lead Output

## 'A LEAD PIPE CINCH'

Capital Stock of Five Implied  
Concerns Approaches  
\$400,000,000

## EXPOSED BY UNTERMEYER

Du Ponts Included in Newest  
Combination Developed at  
New York Probe

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Five manufacturing concerns controlling over 55 per cent of America's white lead output, principal ingredient of paint, were accused of collusion and price fixing today by New York's "building trust" inquiry.

The capital stock of these corporations approaches \$400,000,000 and the joint legislative committee conducting the inquiry into the alleged building trust was told in today's testimony that they maintained equal prices and exchanged information regarding quotations and names of customers.

This "revelation" came to the committee from Charles F. Tuttle, secretary of the American Institute of Lead Manufacturers, the association through which the companies exchanged price data and other information.

Five Accused Concerns.

The corporations named were the Sherwin-Williams company, National Lead company, E. I. duPont de Nemours and company, and Hammer Brothers, the last named, the owners of the Eagle-Pitcher company of Chicago, fifth member of the group. They operate plants throughout the country.

Samuel Untermyer, committee counsel, charged that the institute was a "rock-ribbed combination," and suggested that a good name for it after being informed that White Lead Trust.

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## CLARA SMITH'S TRAIL SPEEDING TOWARD OKLAHOMA

Berlin Military  
Expert Urges  
Attack on RedsHOUSTON FIGHTS  
PLAN FOR BONUSWarns Against Saddling  
More Burdens on the  
U. S. Treasury

## FACING GREAT DEFICIT

Shortage of \$2,100,000,000  
Confronts Us at End of  
This Fiscal Year

## SAYS MARKETS AFFECTED

Talk of Aid for Soldiers and  
Help for Farmers Depresses  
Values of Securities

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Declaring that the government faces a gross deficit of \$2,100,000,000 for the current fiscal year, Secretary Houston today warned the senate finance committee that congress should avoid putting a heavier burden on the treasury department. The estimate surprised the committee, as it was nearly \$1,000,000,000 greater than that recently estimated by Senator McCarver of North Dakota, one of its members.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, the treasury had estimated the deficit would be approximately \$1,500,000,000 and he added that it could be seen that new sources of revenue must be sought to meet even current requirements.

Will Oppose Bonus.

Mr. Houston was called before the committee to discuss the soldiers' bonus which, according to estimates, would require an outlay of \$1,500,000,000, and he indicated that the treasury would oppose any action by congress that would tend to open a new drain on the treasury.

The secretary also reiterated his objections to the revival of the war finance corporation. It would mean, he said, that the treasury would be compelled to launch a new program of borrowing.

The committee asked Mr. Houston to return for further testimony Monday.

Market Is Suffering.

Market prices of Liberty bonds and other government securities were said today by Secretary Houston to be suffering as a result of the continued discussion of the soldiers' bonus and the various legislative measures for the relief of the farmers, such as the revival of the war finance corporation.

Enactment into law of either of these propositions, the treasury secretary declared, would necessitate a loan by the government of a sum which would add to the amount of government securities now outstanding and cause consequent reaction in the market for government bonds. Necessity of a loan to finance a soldier bonus, Mr. Houston said, is readily understood, but it would be equally necessary for the government to borrow in order to enable the treasury to finance a corporation to function.

Opposes Sales Tax.

Discussing a sales tax to provide government revenue, a subject now under consideration by the house ways and means committee, the secretary declared himself opposed to a general sales tax on the ground that it was a burden on the people of progressive taxation. He added, however, that he favored a selected sales tax applicable to certain classes of articles not necessities, which, he said, would keep the burden of the tax from those unable to pay.

It will take us 13 years to pay off our national debt under the existing law," Senator Knox, republican of Utah, commented as Houston proceeded.

Our Exports Enormous.

During last month the department of commerce reports showed American exports totaling \$7,500,000,000 in value, Houston said.

Houston cited statistics to show a falling off in tax payments by the country's farmers, who were expected to receive large incomes. He expressed the opinion that the country's tax burden would have to be increased if the national government were to add to its financial obligations during the next two years. He warned against "tampering" with the sinking fund intended to take care of the country's war debt.

Reverting to the proposed revival of the war finance corporation, Houston said if the corporation attempted to issue bonds to finance American exports, these bonds "would have to compete with the regular issues of treasury certificates."

Edge Plan May Help.

Houston said he thought corporations being organized under the Edge bill to finance American exports "may do some good."

"They may help to unify commercial activities and I hope they will function in a successful manner," Houston said.

One objection to the revival of the war finance corporation was his original one of "subjecting to any thing being done now to increase the country's financial burdens."

Houston said he desired to warn congress and the country that the assumption of any additional financial obligations such as the proposed \$2,000,000,000 or \$3,000,000,000 soldier bonus would tend to increase the country's financial burden.

Houston said the funding of our national debt and the funding of our Victory loan, cause the inflation of credits generally and the impairment of private enterprise.

HOUSTON FIGHTS  
PLAN FOR BONUSWarns Against Saddling  
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Army Officer Who  
Fled With Cash  
Is Caught In East

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 23.—John C. Gottenkiene, alias David L. Gordon, former second lieutenant in the Fifth field artillery division, charged with deserting his command at Coblenz, Germany, in June, 1919, taking with him about \$48,000 of his company's funds, was arrested here tonight and turned over to department of justice officials.

GIRL TO DEMAND  
AN EARLY TRIAL