

FLOUR COMES DOWN; BREAD NOT! WHY?

Problem Put Up to West Virginian Readers for Solution.

Since May 15 flour has fallen from \$17.50 a barrel to \$13.70, a decrease of \$3.80, or 21 per cent.

About the time flour reached its record high mark of \$17.50, bread prices were boosted throughout the country.

Query: If a flour rise boosted bread prices why doesn't a flour drop cut bread prices?

WHY? To answer this question The West Virginian has investigated bread prices in representative cities. This investigation shows:

The average retail price of a pound bread loaf April 1, 1917, with flour at an average of \$12.90, was 7.1 cents.

The average price for the same loaf on or about May 15, as a result of the price of flour soaring 38 per cent. to \$17.50, was 10.3 cents—an increase of 32 cents, or 45 per cent.

The average bread price today, when flour sells at \$13.70, a drop of over 25 per cent. from bread's high mark, is 10.3 cents, a decrease of nothing at all.

The West Virginian had hoped to find at least one city where bread prices had fallen proportionately with flour prices. Such a city might have furnished a clue to the answer to the big "WHY?" But apparently that city does not exist.

Therefore The West Virginian passes THE GREAT NATIONAL BREAD PUZZLE along to its readers. Address your solution to The West Virginian's Bread Editor.

Here's a list of bread prices in 19 scattered cities. It may not help solve the mystery, but it surely proves the mystery is no idle puzzle, but rather a very real and very general problem of daily living.

Table with 3 columns: City, Present per Pound Bread Price, Present per Pound Flour Price. Lists cities like Richmond, Bridgeport, Boston, etc.

The present price is in each case the highest price for the year.

Once before, since the beginning of the war, there was a general bread increase—in the spring of 1915. At the outbreak of the war in 1914 flour was \$5 a barrel. The price after three or four months started upward. By February 3, 1915, it had climbed to \$8.10.

In most cities there was no protest against slight increases, enough to cover the advanced flour prices. But immediately flour started down again, and bread also dropped.

Then August 3, 1916, flour once more began to soar. Once more the bakers laid their cards on the table. Bread prices were boosted to their present figure, and, because the public knew \$17.50 flour necessitated the increase, it acquiesced. Then flour prices dropped for the second time. They have been going down ever since. And ever since the public has been waiting for bread prices likewise to tumble.

They Haven't Tumbled. And the mystery is all the deeper because, whereas flour on any given day sells at practically the same figure in the country over, bread sells at the same figure in almost no two cities. In Louisville 8 cents a pound, in Omaha 10 cents, in Memphis 12 cents, and in Bridgeport 15 cents.

Government food control alone can solve the big mystery. But if congress can talk and talk why can't West Virginian readers?

Send in your answer!

NORWOOD. A fine baby boy was born to Mrs. and Mr. Erwin Hawkins Friday last.

Johnnie Hawkins and family have moved into their new home. Those who were calling at J. C. Satterfield's Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Owen Moore, of Winfield; Mrs. Columbus Satterfield, of Fairmont; and six children; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Walls, Miss Josephine Moore, Mrs. Minnie Stansberry, and Mrs. Maud Devault.

Those who attended the funeral of Brooks Travis from here were, Mrs. Florence Hawkins and daughter Agnes, Mrs. Eddie Staunton and three children, Mr. Hugh Harris. Playford Grubb of Piney Run is boarding at the present time at Eddie Staunton's.

Clarkburg Gets Appeal Board. CLARKSBURG, W. V., Aug. 2.—Word was received here today from its president, Judge Ira E. Robinson of Grafton, that Clarkburg has been selected as the headquarters for the military conscription appeal board for the Northern district of West Virginia.

It will hold its next meeting in the Federal building here and will hold sessions weekly thereafter, unless it is found necessary to meet more frequently. The board consists of Judge Robinson, of Grafton, J. B. Huyett and Dr. W. J. Davidson, of Charleston, A. W. Paul of Wheeling and W. M. Rogers of Fairmont. Mr. Paul has been chosen secretary of the board.

Charlot as Engine of War. Among some nations of antiquity chariots were regarded as filling the place of heavy artillery, so that the military power of a nation might be estimated by the number of its chariots. Thus Pharaoh in pursuing Israel took with him 600 chariots.

THE GREAT AMERICAN PUZZLE OF THE YEAR!

Illustration showing flour barrels and bread loaves with prices. Text: 'Bought this much flour April 1, 1917 \$12.90', 'Bought only this much flour May 15, 1917 \$17.50', 'But today \$12.90 buys this much flour', 'Why does that loaf today, when flour is down again, still cost the same old 10.3 cents? Why?'

BITS OF STATE NEWS

The West Virginia State Fair Association which opens Labor Day through its management has taken a great interest in the "Every back yard a vegetable garden" movement...

Guard Officers Named. Bruce S. Cook of Charleston, senior second lieutenant in the Second Regiment, National Guard, has been promoted to the first lieutenant to succeed Lieut. Albert Peyton...

A letter from Governor John J. Cornwell was received by Mayor Edmund Sehon, of Huntington recently, relative to the enforcement of the idlers' law in that city.

In accordance with an act passed recently in a regular session of the legislature, which provides for the creation of a state tuberculosis sanitarium for the colored people...

The Pittsburgh and West Virginia Gas company has asked permission of the Interstate Commerce Commission to raise its rates for gas furnished to all public and industrial institutions...

RUMANIA'S DEVASTATION PRICE OF HER BARGAINING FOR SPOILS

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 31.—Arrival in Washington of Americans returning from the seat of war, clears up one of the conflict's many mysteries—the Rumanian riddle. The disaster following Rumania's entry into the war caused political crises in France and Great Britain...

WASHINGTON NEWS GOSSIP

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 2.—Michael J. Laughlin has been appointed postmaster at Otsego, Wyoming county, succeeding R. V. Leftwich, deceased. Edward L. Dunn at Greenbrier Springs, Summers county, succeeding T. S. Taylor, resigned...

METZ.

Mr. and Mrs. George Campbell and two daughters, Pauline and Marie, of Garrett, Ind., was here visiting friends last week. Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Campbell and Miss Alma Dye were shopping in Mannington Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Ross Dye of Steubenville, Ohio, who were here visiting friends returned home Friday.

FIREMAN RESCUE BOY.

CHEST, Tenn.—The fire department of Decatur, ten miles away, was called to rescue Jimmy Blon, young son of J. Blon, Jr., from the high roof of his father's barn. Jimmy was trying out a new glider when a sudden gust carried him onto the barn roof and blew the glider away while he clung to the ridgepole. Jimmy's father is now using the glider to repair his windmill.

AUTO POKER; OH, CECIL!

Illustration of a car race. Text: 'Raise you a red!', 'Get your ante in!', 'I called.', 'Ever play auto poker? It's simple at ten miles an hour on low gear, and exciting at 40 miles with the throttle wide open.'

Advertisement for Phonographic line. Text: 'Owing to the lack of room we are going to discontinue the Phonographic line. Our last \$100 demonstrating machine with \$72.65 worth of records and albums, we will offer in the window \$5.00 less each day until sold.'

BALTIMORE & OHIO SEASHORE EXCURSIONS. FROM FAIRMONT, W. VA., TO ATLANTIC CITY. \$10.00 Good in Coaches only, \$12.00 Good in Pullman Car with Pullman ticket.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL EMBLEM. Do You Own One? If Not Do You Want One? If You, Do THE WEST VIRGINIAN Has Made It Possible for You to Secure One at Ridiculously Small Cost.