

PROFITEERING IS BARED BY REPORT

Treasury Department Tells How the American Public Has Been Made to Pay.

DIG INCREASES OVER 1916

Producers of Foodstuffs Made the Most Enormous Profits, and Nearly Every Other Branch of Industry Piled Up Huge Riches.

Washington, Aug. 17.—The treasury department's report on profiteering, just completed in response to a senate resolution and covering 31,500 corporations, reveals the fact that astonishing profits have been made in almost every branch of industry in America in 1916 and 1917. The names of the concerns are not made public. The treasury department takes the position that it would be a violation of existing law to make public the names of corporations and their earnings. The senate resolution is not sufficient to suspend the law; it would require a joint resolution, the treasury department holds.

The most extraordinary profiteering revealed by the report was in foodstuffs. Producers of nearly all the common necessities of life were shown to have made enormously increased profits in 1917 over 1916, although their earnings in 1916 were in numerous cases far above the 100 per cent mark. Meat packers' profits were shown to have increased substantially. One large packer made \$19,000,000 more in 1917 than in 1916.

In the iron and steel industry sensational profits were disclosed. In coal and oil profits mounted to unparalleled figures. Public utilities of virtually every character also came in for a liberal share of the increased prosperity.

Large Profits of Dairies.

Among the dairy concerns large increases of profits were shown. One company with \$600,000 capital made \$166,000 in 1917, against \$25,000 the year before. The small dairymen made the largest percentages of increased profits. One little concern with a capital of \$2,400 made \$11,659, as compared with \$4,000 for 1916.

Fruit and vegetable growing industry's profits increased considerably over those for 1916, although they were fairly large for that year. One concern's profits were 240 per cent more for 1917 than for 1916. Concerns with small capital showed the largest increases.

Wheat, corn and barley growing was not so profitable, according to the returns. One concern with \$425,000 capital lost money.

Stock breeding showed substantially increased profit in nearly all the concerns listed. The industry also showed large profits for the previous year. One concern's profits were 255 per cent more in 1917 than in 1916.

A large number of industries listed as "miscellaneous agricultural industries" showed some strikingly large profits, beginning in 1916 and increasing rapidly in 1917.

Food Men Gain Riches.

Of 216 concerns listed under the caption "Bread and other baking products," profiteering of an amazing character was shown. For example, one company capitalized at \$40,000 increased its profits from \$50,000 in 1916 to \$167,000 in 1917. Few of them showed increases of less than 20 per cent on their capital stock.

In the canning industry one company which earned 377 per cent in 1916 earned 1,947 per cent in 1917. Another, capitalized at \$93,000, made \$247,000 in 1917, against \$66,000 in 1916. A \$50,000 concern which made \$25,000 in 1916 made \$142,000 in 1917.

The manufacture of syrups, molasses and glucose netted much increased profit. One company, with \$350,000 capital earned \$363,000 in 1917 against \$176,000 in 1916. Ice cream was an especially big money maker.

Of more than 500 flour, feed and grist mills listed only a few failed to show largely increased profits. One \$2,500,000 concern made \$752,000 in 1916 and \$1,200,000 in 1917.

There was a general upward rise in most packing companies' profits. The largest concern listed had a capital of \$100,000,000, upon which it earned \$49,600,000 in 1917, against \$30,000,000 in 1916.

Starting Profits in Leather.

Leather manufacturers, including the dealers in hides, and makers of boots and shoes and trunks and valises, made profits in 1916 and 1917 that are startling. One shoe manufacturing concern, with \$1,000,000 capital, made \$13 per cent in 1916, but no excess in 1917.

Scores of boot and shoe manufacturing concerns, whose capital was from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, made all the way from 20 to more than 1,000 per cent in 1916.

Our Silver Goes to India.

The viceroy of India, Lord Chelmsford, returns thanks to the American government for its contribution to the silver supply. There is plenty more that can be spared. Only \$77,000,000 of the cart-wheel standard silver dollars are in circulation, while about \$400,000,000 are stored in treasury vaults and represented in circulation by silver certificates—in effect, warehouse receipts. The borrowing from the treasury by our government of a few hundred millions of the discs to be

The profits of the brewers ranged from 25 to 175 per cent in 1916 and their excess profits in 1917 were from 5 to 50 per cent, most of the large breweries making an average profit of 42 to 50 per cent in 1916, and an excess profit of 10 per cent in 1917.

The distillers of whiskies and spirits made profits in 1916 that ranged from 9 to \$23 per cent, while their excess profits last year were from 12 to 400 per cent.

Coal Men Pile Up Wealth.

The Pennsylvania and West Virginia soft coal mining companies made enormous excess profits in 1917, according to the report. The large companies all made profits in 1916 ranging from 25 to 150 per cent.

In 1917 all of the large bituminous operators, the report shows, made unusual profits. One mine made 1,626 per cent on its capital in 1916 and 4,337 per cent in 1917. Another made 1,872 per cent in 1916 and 5,983 per cent in 1917.

Profits of the midcontinent bituminous operators were smaller, averaging 50 per cent.

The big oil producing companies of Illinois, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia made from 28 to 393 per cent in 1916 and enormous excess profits in 1917. The Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas oil companies showed similar profits for both years.

All of the garment manufacturers made gigantic profits in 1916, those for the larger companies ranging from 25 to 75 per cent that year. They showed excess profits in 1917 of from 5 to 55 per cent.

Small dealers in flour and grain, with capital stock of from \$1,000 to \$8,000, made excess profits that ranged as high as 519 per cent.

The report also shows that the small dealers in furniture and other household goods made enormous profits last year, with excess profits as high as 350 per cent.

Retail dealers in tobacco made enormous profits off the smokers of the country, the highest being 3,176 per cent, and the average approximately 80 per cent in 1916. These profits were doubled during 1917.

Auto Builders Wax Fat.

Most of the automobile companies hit high marks in earnings in 1916, but they went still higher in 1917. The largest listed, however, did not show any extraordinary increase in profits over those of 1916. One company with \$31,000,000 capital in 1916 earned \$17,000,000, then boosted its capital stock to \$36,000,000 and then earned \$23,000,000. A \$19,000,000 concern which earned \$4,908,000 in 1916 made \$5,258,000 in 1917. A \$16,000,000 company made \$4,713,000 in 1917, against \$4,109,000 in 1916.

A tin plate mill with \$49,000,000 capital made \$54,000,000 net profit in 1917, against \$19,000,000 in 1916, or an increase of 72 per cent on its capital stock.

Transportation, public utilities, and light and power companies, with very few exceptions, fared exceedingly well during 1916 and 1917. Their profits in 1916 generally ranged from 6 to 80 per cent on their capital stock, while they nearly all made excess profits in 1917 of from 3 to 35 per cent. Profits of the large public utilities companies in 1916 and 1917 ranged from 11 to 25 per cent.

Steam and electric railroads in 1916 made from 17 to 207 per cent profits, while in 1917 they made profits in excess of 1916 that ranged between 15 and 20 per cent, according to the report.

Marine, fire, and life insurance concerns enjoyed unusually large increases in profits. One company earned 433 per cent more on its capital stock in 1917 than in 1916. Another capitalized at \$700,000 increased its income from \$224,000 in 1916 to \$3,778,000 in 1917.

How Dry Goods Men Fared.

A list of 2,092 clothing and dry goods merchants, including department stores, showed profits for 1917 in excess of those for 1916, as high as 191.43 per cent on the capital stock. The concerns making the enormous profits, however, were the smaller firms.

Retail grocers and provision brokers made their enormous "war profits" in 1916, the report shows. The grocers made only a small profit in 1917 in excess of their 1916 profits. Of the 1,633 concerns listed in the report, however, only a dozen show profits of less than 20 per cent on their capital stock in 1916, the year before the United States entered the war, and the profits of some concerns that year were as high as 1,813 per cent. Most of the grocers, both large and small concerns, the report shows, made average profits in 1916 of from 50 to 200 per cent.

Sentimental Gush.

"It's positively silly, of course, but I guess most of us have been that way at some time in our lives."

"What are you talking about?"

"I just now overheard a young chap telling 'earth's fairest creature' why it was that the sugar shortage wasn't bothering him in the least."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

converted into bullion and loaned to our silver-using allies is good finances.

—New York Herald.

Rather Slow.

"I don't suppose you would consider houseboating a form of sport?" "I should say not!" replied the motorist. "Why, the last time I was on board a houseboat I took us a week to cover a distance I can travel in my car in about two hours of moderately fast driving."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Y.M.C.A. WORK at FRONT NO "SNAP"



Men of the Red Triangle Must Be Ready to Do Everything But Go Over the Top

American soldier, hardly more than a boy, was reading a letter which had just been delivered to him at a concentration camp in France. Six weeks before he had written to his father and to his sweetheart. The censor had mixed the letter from his best girl and as he sadly tucked it away in his pocket he was heard to murmur:

"I wonder what the old man will say."

That is what the Y. M. C. A. wonders, as today the association addresses to "the old man" an appeal for him to pick up stakes and follow his boy overseas to wear the uniform of the Red Triangle. Before September 1 the Y. M. C. A. must recruit 4,000 men and women to share the burdens on the western front with the more than 2,500 workers who are already there.

To those who do not know that the British Y. M. C. A. has 40,000 workers in the British armies, and that the American Y. M. C. A. has been charged with the responsibility of providing recreation for the fighting men of the United States and keeping up their morale, it is perhaps inconceivable, says a writer in the New York Tribune, that the men of this country above draft age should be asked to give up their business to go overseas with their sons and their younger brothers who are not too old to fight.

Part of the War Machine.

The facts are clear. The outstanding fact is that the Y. M. C. A., while retaining its individuality as a civilian organization, is an integral part of the military machine. And the association is a part of the military machine not only of the American expeditionary forces but of the French and Italian armies as well.

The Y. M. C. A. was in the great war long before General Pershing landed on French soil. General Pershing went to the western front with several clear-cut notions of how best the American troops could do their part in the winning of the war. First, he determined that his army should be a clean army; he believed that the best use that could be made of a man in uniform was to put him in the fighting forces; he sought to transfer as many of the noncombatant functions of his army as possible to some responsible agency. The Y. M. C. A. got the job because the Y. M. C. A. had the organization. Since then other volunteer organizations have gone to France to help. All are welcome. Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus and so on. The "Y" bears the brunt because of its size.

Hut Keeper Does Little of Everything.

This man with the Red Triangle on his sleeve is over draft age. The "Y" would not have him there if he were not. He has no rank, but even the officers salute him, because, they say, he is there through the impetus of service. The shells may fall all around him, but it is extremely unlikely that the Croix de Guerre will ever be pinned upon his breast. He is unarmed because capture by the Germans under such circumstances means death immediately.

What is his job?

Well, his hut is the club of the trench or billet. The "Y" is the general store. It is where the men meet when they are not on military duty. The man in charge sells or gives away some of the

"Y" POST NEAR THE FIGHTING LINE

920,000 pounds of chocolate that the American troops are eating every month in France. Or through his hands go some of the cigarettes and tobacco that are shipped to the western front in hundred-ton lots.

When he is not too close to the front he runs motion picture shows and lectures in the evenings. If his billet is a small one and there is no sports leader assigned there, he leads the men in athletic games in which all may take part. And under the same circumstances it may be his job to arrange religious services for Jew and Gentile, for Catholic and Protestant. He sends money back home for the boys without charge to them. In the "Y" dugout they write their letters, and the hut leader starts them on their way. He listens to tales of woe, answers questions by the hour, admires the picture of the baby that was born since father answered the call to the colors, and works about three hours a day longer than the working hours of the man in uniform.

If he is assigned to the trenches near the front line, it is the "Y" man's job to make hot coffee and hot chocolate, late at night, fill his pockets with chocolate, gum and smokes and go through the communication trench to the front line so that the boys on watch may have their comforts from home. And if there be a listening post near by in No Man's Land, he goes there, too. The "Y" goes everywhere with the men except over the top and is not far behind them.

The Kind of Men Not Needed.

What kind of man is the Y. M. C. A. seeking, then, in this drive to keep pace with the rapid expansion of the military establishment of the nation? Surely not the kind of which a sample appeared at the offices of the National War Work Council, 347 Madison avenue, the other day.

"The Lord has closed all doors to me," he began, "all except one, and that one opens to France. The Lord has made it clear to me that it is my duty to go over there and preach to those boys."

It happened that the listener was James A. Whitmore, who has been Y. M. C. A. secretary for years and who recently returned from the western front with broad views inspired by watching pastors of big city pulpits sell plug tobacco to soldiers on Sunday afternoon and the like. Mr. Whitmore was explicit in his reply.

"Your kind is the last that's needed overseas," said Mr. Whitmore. "When you go to France for the Y. M. C. A. you go on a blind assignment, to do whatever is most important at the time and always to do what the boys in uniform want."

Mr. Whitmore went into details regarding the Y. M. C. A. program of service, and as he proceeded the visitor palpably weakened. He thought that he would be willing to go to France with a revised point of view. In fact, he said that he would be willing to do anything that he thought the Lord wanted him to do.

"Well," replied Mr. Whitmore, "in that case you'd still be a bit restricted. The Lord gives his message to only one Y. M. C. A. man in France—his Ned Carter, our chief secretary—and you'd have to take Ned Carter's word for it that you were getting the Lord's message straight."

Type of Man That is Needed.

And as the messenger whose message never will be delivered went on his way Mr. Whitmore shot after him his notion of the kind of man who is needed in France today by the Red Triangle. He said:

"First of all, the man who is sent to France by the Y. M. C. A. must un-

derstand that he is going to war. He must be ready to do the thing that comes to him to do. France is no place these days for the man who thinks he has a mission. There is just one idea behind the whole work—and that is service, what our boys want and not what some missionary thinks they ought to have. The man who goes overseas must be a man of conscience, integrity and high ideals and ability. And he must realize that he is tackling the biggest job that it was ever given man to do.

"Second a man must go in there with the idea firmly fixed in his mind that unless we win this war it were better that America should be annihilated than that she should retreat one step in the determination to prevent the barbarous Hun from imposing his unmerciful sway over the world and sweep democracy from the earth.

"Third, he must be a man who believes in the war work of the Y. M. C. A. and can grasp the meaning of its wonderfully human and spiritual program, and who, seeing all this, can be enthusiastic about his job and consider it a great privilege to perform it.

"And last, he must be a thoroughbred—a dead game sport in the best sense of the term—who can go through the whole war game and not flinch, in spite of the slaughter, the blood, the mud, the discouragements, desolation and horror of it all. He must go through it all by the sheer good nature that sees above it his high ideals triumphant and democracy vindicated and scattering its blessings upon mankind."

Scope of Work Boundless.

The scope of the Y. M. C. A. enterprise is practically boundless. The association has gone far afield from its traditional activities. Never in their

from the United States and the completed products—chocolate, crackers, etc.—are made in France.

The "Y" needs, therefore, not only business men who can sell goods, but men who are experienced on the manufacturing end. The scope of the work makes it possible for salesmen, warehousemen, accountants and clerks of all kinds to go overseas and do their bit in this war.

Sports. If there is one thing that the healthy American young man, in khaki needs most in France it is good, healthy sport. Some of the most famous athletic directors and athletes of other years are in France today leading men in mass athletic games.

Herbert L. Pratt, vice president of the Standard Oil company, who recently returned from France to head the local overseas recruiting committee, is authority for the statement that "there is no job in France too small for the biggest man in any American community." "No president of a railroad or a bank, or a college," he adds, "no lawyer or minister is too big for the job of taking care of our boys overseas."

Mr. Pratt and others who have seen the work that is being done in France sum it all up by saying that it means to our boys over there, first of all—America and home.

Marvelous Grand Canyon.

Those who have lived with, rather than glanced at, the Grand Canyon become increasingly moved by its glories. It has inspired more literature and art than all the other scenic places of America combined. It is the center of a steadily increasing pilgrimage of painters. It perhaps may be said that the Grand Canyon and the region of which it is the climax inspire the highest as well as certainly the most extensive expression of landscape art in America today.

Translations.

Translations are like photographs, best for reproducing drawings and worst for sunsets. It is as though one who could not see the French cathedrals or the Pyramids should acquaint himself with good paintings of them. But they are not the cathedrals or the Pyramids. They are the next best thing, unless, as may be the case, the tales of travelers are better. These, too, are not the original, but a teacher's interpretation—sometimes very good and sometimes not.—Andrew F. West.

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SOLDIERS LIKED WAR BREAD

British Fighting Men Found Their Health Improved Through Use of Unbolted Wheat Meal.

A little more than a century ago, when Britain had been fighting for years against Napoleon, food became very scarce. Following is from a book on bread-making, written by Sylvester Graham, in 1837:

"In order to conserve wheat as much as possible, the British government ordered that the army should be supplied with bread made from unbolted wheat meal, i. e., simply the wheat ground without having the bran or middlings removed. The soldiers were at first displeased with the bread and refused to eat it, even casting it from them in great rage, but after two or three weeks they began to be much pleased with it and preferred it to the fine-flour bread.

"The result of this experiment was that not only was the wheat made to go further, but the health of the soldiers improved so much and so manifestly in the course of a few months that it became a matter of common remark among themselves and of observation and surprise among the officers and physicians of the army. They expressed themselves with confidence and zeal on the subject. The public declared that the soldiers were never so healthy and robust. The public papers were for months filled with praise of whole-wheat bread, and it was regularly introduced into families.

"Still, after this experiment with such happy results and so general and full a testimony had been given in favor of the coarse-wheat bread, when large supplies of superfine flour came in from America, and the crops from home became again abundant and the act of parliament regarding the food of the army became extinct, most of the people by degrees returned to their old habits of eating fine bread."

SURGEONS DO GREAT WORK

Rehabilitation of Wounded Soldiers Seems Little Short of Miraculous to a Civilian.

Foster Debevoise of South Orleans, N. J., on a recent tour through France and England, visited the armies at the front, and speaks with enthusiasm of their indomitable spirit and unflinching hopefulness.

In commenting he speaks on the work done for wounded soldiers:

"The men in English cities, of whom I saw hundreds, without legs or arms, or with reconstructed faces, and those in hospitals in process of being mended, all had the same words: 'If only I could go back again!' And this brings me to another wonderful thing, and that is the way the hospitals are performing miracles. When finally, sometimes after months and months of treatment, the reconstructing process is finished, the men are taught trades and placed in positions so that they are enabled to take up their lives again with a large degree of happiness. Straps operate as muscles on artificial legs and arms; and I have seen such men swing a hammer, play golf, knit, or work at lathes. It is almost incredible what is being done. Hats off to the doctors, I say!"

The United States government will apply the same methods of reconstruction to those of our boys that are disabled or crippled.—Marion Couthy, Smy Smith.

Rubber in Japan.

The rubber manufacturing industry in Japan has developed greatly within the past year in the scope and variety of its products. In the export trade, too, its importance is increasing. The growth of the industry may be seen from the steady increase in the import of crude rubber. The official trade returns state that the import in 1917 totaled 9,689,632 yen over the figure for 1915. Formerly most of the automobile tires used in Japan were imported into that country, but now the greater part of Japan's needs are supplied by domestic manufacturers. The export of automobile tires has also begun with the development of rubber plants in Japan.

CONDENSATIONS

One of England's largest veterinary hospitals is now run entirely by women.

Argentina maintains a meteorological station at an elevation of 4,000 feet above the sea.

Of 14,053 fires in New York last year only 152 were attributed to defective electrical installation.

The government of Colombia has appropriated a large sum to encourage silk production in that country.

Baltimore is the first Southern city to have women street car conductors.

Several of the large retail stores of Newark, N. J., have hired women to drive their delivery cars.

Siam produces more than 40 varieties of rice, some of which are ripened in 70 days from planting, while others require six months.

There is an opening in one side of a Michigan inventor's milk bottle through which cream can be drawn without disturbing the rest of the milk.