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TO STABILIZE THE PRICE OF HOGS

Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator, says: "The Food Administration has four main purposes in view with reference to hogs: To see that the producer at all times can count on a fair price for his hogs, so that it will be profitable for him; to see that the farmer increases the number of hogs bred; to limit the profit of the packer and the middle man; to eliminate speculation.

Hog Supply

"We shall establish rigid control of the packer. Fair prices to the farmer for his hogs, we believe, will be brought about by the full control which the Food Administration has over the buying of the allies, our army and navy, the Red Cross, the Belgian relief, and the neutrals.

"The first step is to stop the sudden break in prices paid for hogs in the central markets. These prices must become stable, so that the farmer knows where he stands and will feel justified in increasing the number of hogs for next winter. The prices, so far as we can effect them will not go below a minimum of about \$15.50 per hundredweight for the average of the packers' droves on the Chicago market.

"We have had and shall have the advice of a board composed of practical hog growers and experts. That board advises that the best yardstick to measure the cost of production of the hog is the cost of corn.

"That board further advises that the ratio of corn prices to hog prices on the average over a series of years, has been about twelve to one, or a little less. In the past, when the ratio has gone lower than twelve to one, the stock of hogs in the country has decreased.

"When it was higher than twelve the hogs have increased. That board has given its judgment that to bring the stock of hogs back to normal under present conditions the ratio should be about thirteen.

"Therefore, as to the hogs farrowed next spring, we will try to stabilize the price so that the farmer can count on getting for each 100 pounds of hog ready for the market, thirteen times the average cost per bushel of corn fed to the hogs."

Parker Orders Cars

The United States Food Administration has displayed further interest in Louisiana as one of the nation's most valuable sources of supply. Louisiana has raised a number of the crops in great immediate demand, but was hampered in their distribution by the lack of transportation facilities. John M. Parker, Food Administrator for Louisiana, laid the situation before Mr. Hoover and received a reply that the latter would do anything within his power that Mr. Parker deemed should be done. The Louisiana Administrator accordingly telegraphed a requisition for three thousand freight cars as a starter. He has also appointed a committee of freight officials of the different railroads, whom he will ask to work out an effective and impartial system of utilizing the cars that are expected immediately.

Sugar Scarce

One of the main Louisiana commodities that is being clamored for, especially in the East, is sugar. The national capital itself was one of the first victims of the famine, and the sugar people grasped the cooperative and advertising value of the opportunity and rushed two or three carloads to Washington without waiting for orders or sales. The industry has much reason to be thankful for having accepted the advice to organize and stabilize, the policy having resulted in better prices for the crop and for more

THE WAR-SAVINGS PLAN SUMMARIZED

The war-savings plan provided for in the last bond act, of September 24, 1917, has been formulated and announced by the Treasury Department and goes into operation on Monday, December 3.

The plan puts it easily in reach of every American citizen to save money and at the same time aid the Government by supplying it with the sinews of war.

Stamps, which are the Government's certificates of indebtedness, are to be sold in two denominations—thrift stamps, which cost 25 cents each, and war-savings stamps, which cost from \$4.12 to \$4.25 each according to the month in which they are purchased.

With the first thrift stamp the purchaser is given a thrift card with spaces for 16 stamps. When 16 thrift stamps have been purchased and affixed the thrift card can be exchanged for a war-savings stamp by paying the difference between the \$4 the thrift stamps represent and the current value of a war-savings stamp, which in December, 1917, and January, 1918, will be \$4.12, and thereafter 1 cent for each succeeding month during the year 1918.

With the first war-savings stamp obtained by purchase or exchange the owner is given a war-savings certificate containing spaces for 20 war-savings stamps. If the 20 spaces are filled during December, 1917, or January, 1918, the cost to the purchaser will be \$4.12 for each stamp, or \$82.40 for the full certificate, and on the 1st day of January, 1923, the Government will redeem the certificate at \$100, giving the holder a net profit of \$17.60 for the use of his money.

Although these investments do not mature until January 1, 1923, provision is made whereby upon 10 days' written notice after January 1, 1918, such certificates will be redeemed by post-masters at their cost to the purchasers plus 1 cent a month on each war-savings stamp on the certificate.

The thrift stamps do not bear interest, but the war-savings stamps bear 4 per cent, compounded quarterly. The certificates will be dated January 2, 1918, and mature January 1, 1923.

Under the plan an amount as small as 25 cents can be invested in a Government security, and as soon as \$4 has been thus invested an interest-bearing certificate of the United States Government can be secured.

The stamps and certificates can be obtained from post offices, banks, or trust companies, at most railroad stations, stores, factories, and many other public places.

Having the entire wealth of the United States back of them, and being redeemable as above stated, there is no danger of any depreciation in value of the certificates.

favorable position in national consideration than would otherwise have been secured or possible.

With the idea of further conserving the nation's food supply by protecting it from insect ravages, President Wilson, in a proclamation dated Nov. 15, has placed the arsenic industry of the United States under direction of the Food Administration. The President's action comes in answer to a threatened shortage in the supply of arsenical insecticides, which are the farmer's chief protection for his crops against the onslaught of "biting insects."

Young Men's Christian Association plans for work in France include the establishment of 78 libraries.

Oh, if these worthless, meatless, sugarless, butterless days could only bring debtless days also!

WHY WE ARE AT WAR

Our government did not declare war on Germany. It declared that a state of war existed because Germany was already committing acts of war on us.

Germany was sinking American ships and drowning American citizens and declared her intention of so continuing to do.

Germany was paying agents to burn and destroy American factories.

Germany was trying to incite Mexico and Japan to fight us.

Germany was filling our country—even our government offices—with spies and hostile agitators who "set criminal intrigues everywhere afoot."

IF WE ARE BEATEN, WHAT HAVE WE A RIGHT TO EXPECT?

What Germany has already inflicted on conquered peoples:

Towns laid waste; homes desolated.

Men driven into slavery.

Women driven into slavery—worse than slavery.

Huge indemnities that shall cripple all industry.

The loss of personal freedom.

In Germany the people exist for the sake of military class. In America the army exists for the sake of the people.

The Kaiser declared: "Nothing more henceforth may be settled in the world without the intervention of Germany and the German Emperor."

President Wilson says: "We must make the world safe for democracy."

THAT IS WHAT THIS WAR MEANS.

Every one must make every needed sacrifice.

Every one must give all needed help.

LOUISIANA STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

R. G. PLEASANT, Governor and ex-officio Chair.

JOHN MARSHALL, Secretary.

SPY GLASSES WANTED BY NAVY DEPARTMENT

The Navy Department has received the following letter:

"I herewith send you a field glass, wishing to contribute my mite. I hope it may be of service on one of the patrol cruisers, and aid in finding some German submarine. Will be glad to know it can be put in service. Respectfully, J. F. Heffebower, Sawtelle, California."

Mr. Heffebower is a veteran of the Civil War, is seventy-four years old, and is domiciled at the Soldiers' Home, Sawtelle, California. His binoculars have been gladly accepted by the Navy Department, and will be put into immediate use on an American ship in the war zone.

This letter has suggested to the Navy Department the availability of a large number of binoculars, spy-glasses, and telescopes now in private hands throughout the country.

The Navy is in need of binoculars, spy-glasses and telescopes. It is a well known fact that up to very recently the United States imported practically all lenses for the better class of observation glasses, and even now the American facilities are not adequate to supply the greatly increased demand for use on the hundreds of new ships which are being placed in commission. It must be borne in mind that every ship of the navy and merchant marine, requires many more men on lookout than heretofore.

It is believed that many owners would gladly turn them over to the Government for use in the war. It makes little difference how old these glasses are, as long as they are in serviceable condition.

As the Government cannot accept property or service without compensation, one dollar will be paid for each glass accepted. They should be forwarded direct to Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, care of Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C. Prompt acknowledgment will be made. Any glasses received that cannot be of real use to the Navy will be returned to the sender. It is requested that a tag bearing the name and address of the donor be securely attached to the glasses.

TICK-FREE DAY

Saturday, December 1, will be celebrated as "Tick-Free Day" throughout the South, commemorating the release from federal quarantine of the entire State of Mississippi and ninety areas in eight other States which have succeeded in eradicating the cattle tick. The occasion marks an era in the agricultural development of the Southern States. It means that the blight of the cattle tick has been driven from an additional 70,754 square miles during 1917. The people in the remaining 349,253 square miles of infested territory must awaken to the importance of ridding themselves of this milk, meat and feed wasting parasite.

Where is the land over which this cloud of war does not lower?

HELP GIVE CHRISTMAS TO SOLDIERS IN CAMP

The Young Men's Christian Association plans to make Christmas to homeless soldiers. Each soldier listed at Division Headquarters as having no parents from whom to expect presents, will be remembered if ladies in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas respond to this and other appeals sent out. All ladies' organizations and all individuals who can do so are urged to send as many boxes as possible—3,000 may be needed—to "Christmas Committee, Army Y. M. C. A., Camp Beauregard, La." to reach there at least ten days before Christmas. Each box should contain the name and address of the sender. Stationery, smoking tobacco, candy, pocket flashlights, sweaters, mufflers, etc., are always acceptable. Cake and sandwiches are too perishable and should not be included. Boxes must be thoroughly wrapped and tied up to reach camp in good condition.

Notify C. S. Jacobsen, district representative of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, Alexandria, La., at the earliest possible date, of the number of boxes you can supply so that he may check off the number of names covered.

KNIT GOODS FOR SOLDIERS

No attention should be paid to rumors to the effect that knitted goods are not acceptable and that army men are not permitted to receive them. There is only one caution issued to the patriotic women who are producing this warm apparel: Don't use gaudy yarns. All such articles should be knitted in neutral colors, otherwise the soldiers will not be allowed to use them. The reason for this ruling is plain. Bright colors render soldiers conspicuous and expose them unnecessarily to the enemy's fire.

It is much preferred by the War Department that knitted goods be given to the Red Cross for distribution as that organization knows exactly where there is most need of them. The Department, however, does not deny any one the right to donate such goods to individuals or to regimental units.

CONCENTRATE ON WAR

This is not a time for industrial undertakings that do not bear directly on our part in the war. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States and the Council of National Defense have joined in urging business men to apply this "acid test" to every new enterprise: "Will the men, money and material employed in the enterprise best contribute in that way to the winning of the war?" The same test must be applied to public improvements and even to such personal enterprises as building houses to live in. Winning the war is the one great business that the American people have on hand at present. If they respond in a patriotic spirit to the recommendation that has been made, there will be no occasion for government restrictions on the use of labor and materials for non-essential purposes.

CO-ORDINATION OF PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

The following resolution has been passed by the Council of National Defense, concerning the co-ordination under the State Councils of Defense of the work of all voluntary patriotic organizations and committees within their states:

"Whereas, it appears that there are many voluntary organizations and committees engaged in patriotic service throughout the country; and

"Whereas, in the opinion of the Council of National Defense, such organizations and committees can render the most effective service if properly co-ordinated; and

"Whereas, a State Council of Defense has been organized in each state to co-ordinate the war activities within the state and to co-operate with the Council of National Defense; therefore

"Be it resolved, that the Council of National Defense strongly urges that wherever practicable, voluntary patriotic organizations and committees in each state work through and under the guidance of the State Council of Defense so that the State Council of Defense may be the central, co-ordinating agency for all voluntary patriotic work within the state directed toward assisting in the prosecution of the war.

FALSE ECONOMY

(Progressive Farmer)

You may put off buying a farm level because it will cost you anywhere from \$15 to \$20—and let \$100 worth of soil wash away.

You may put off buying a stump puller because it will cost you \$25 to \$100—and suffer a loss of \$200 or more because of wasted time and land and broken implements.

And so on with other things. While "Thrift Month" is on let's figure out how much money we can spare after putting enough in the bank to carry us through next year without having to pay "time prices," and then decide in a family conference in just what things it will pay best to invest the surplus.

Here, for example, are a number of profit-making things for the thrifty farmer advertised by reliable firms in this week's or last week's Progressive Farmer: Farm level, hay press, buggy, watch, heating plant, gas engine, drain tile, stump puller, grist mill, corn sheller, cream separator, wagon, shop tools, barn equipment, pump, hydraulic ram, corn husker, fencing, range, roofing, live stock.

Many of these things can be made doubly profitable by co-operative purchase and use. Suppose you, your father, and two brothers each have enough money to buy a stump puller. By pooling your money you could probably get for your combined use a stump puller, farm level, and hay press—three implements for the price of one!

WEEKLY WAR NEWS DIGEST

Germans held in the United States number nearly 2,800.

American engineers are installing entire railways in French war theater.

Permits for persons subject to draft save delay in traveling.

Thirty-four different races of persons bought bonds of the second Liberty Loan issue.

Each national army camp has a thousand-bed hospital, equipped in accordance with most approved modern practice.

It is estimated that Germany is now holding 150 sailors taken from American ships by commerce raiders and other German vessels.

Express companies are concentrating their efforts to insure prompt and safe handling of all food products of a perishable nature.

The sugar used for making candy in the United States, according to the Food Administration, is sufficient to meet all the sugar requirements of England under the rationing system adopted there.

Since the war insurance plan became operative in October more than 45,000 soldiers have applied for insurance, amounting in all to nearly half a billion dollars and averaging about \$8,000 a man.

A Federal license is now required in the United States for the legal possession of explosives, any person having explosives and not holding a license therefor being subject to a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for one year.

Percentage of sick at army camps is less than 2 per cent. Among the conditions leading to treatment in hospital are severe colds, tonsillitis, slight injuries and other comparatively slight ailments. About the only serious disease found at any camp is pneumonia.

The Daughters of the American Revolution have "adopted" a French town. The members of this organization, who have already given more than \$2,500,000 for war work, are raising money to build houses and buy furniture, live stock, and farming implements for the village of Tilloloy, on the Alsace, which has suffered heavily during the war.

For months eighty-four Dutch merchant ships lay idle at our Atlantic ports—not because our government was detaining the ships themselves, but because it denied export licenses to the cargoes, which it had reason to believe were intended for Germany. The government of Holland has at last seen the point, and has turned over the vessels to our government for use in the coastwise and South American trade.

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(To be continued next week)

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