

FOOD PRICES SOARING.

One Way to Ward Off Hard Times or Famine Later On is to Grow Food Crops.

Prices of Some Staple Articles Indicate That Living This Summer Will Be Higher Than Ever Before—People Using More Largely of Cheaper Food Products—"Grow Food or Go Hungry" Must Be Realized by Sumter County People.

That the slogan "Grow Food or Go Hungry" of the Sumter County Safety Committee is no mere myth, but a positive fact that is staring citizens in the face, is coming to be realized more and more each day, and the people who are paying now the highest prices they have ever paid for foodstuffs are becoming alarmed and depressed, as they long ago should have been, over the situation.

Some of the citizens of Sumter were at last disposed to pooh-pooh at the prices which were being taken by the Committee of Public Safety of the Chamber of Commerce to arouse citizens to an appreciation of their peril, but they are now beginning to see a great light. They are coming to realize that they may be among those to go hungry, if they do not raise food crops, and they are acting accordingly. It is the recent soaring of prices of all kinds of foodstuffs which has done more to arouse them than all the preaching of the Chamber of Commerce could, although the plans outlined by the Committee of Public Safety and the steps being taken by the Chamber of Commerce are helping them to place their efforts along the right channels.

Interviews with brokers and wholesalers of Sumter will show one thing—food prices are higher now than they have been at any time since the war between the States and the top which has not been reached. Indications are that prices will have soared to a much loftier height before the wheat and corn crops are gathered in. It is not a rosy outlook, but it is true.

The high prices are being felt now, but they will be felt a great deal more when prices of staples go up a hundred per cent. higher than they are now, as every indication points to. Some articles have more than doubled their price within the past year, or since the war in Europe commenced, and they are apt to repeat this performance before the war ends, say those who are most closely in touch with the situation. The only remedy for this state of affairs is the raising of more foodstuffs. Everybody who can is urged to plant vegetables now; that they may have food in the near future. They are urged to plant grains, vegetables and other foodstuffs, so they will have something to eat later on, without having to pay what are practically insane prices for things to eat.

In order that poor Mr. Ultimate Consumer may gain a real idea of the cost of staples, the prices of the chief staple articles of food as they are today and as they normally are will be given over.

All corn and wheat are probably the most used foodstuffs in this section, a start will be made with them and the other articles will be taken up as they also come to.

The normal price for corn is 75c to \$1.00 a bushel. The price being paid now is \$1.75 to \$2.00. In wholesale lots it may be purchased at about \$1.70 to \$1.75. This is an advance of about 75 per cent., fifty per cent. of which has been added within the past forty days. Meal and grits have advanced proportionately, or more. Meal has advanced from \$1 and \$1.25 a sack to 3.15 and 3.35. Grits has increased from \$1.25 to \$1.35 a sack. And when the whole-mills are out of their present supply they will have to pay more for these staples than they are now getting for them.

Wheat has advanced from 90 cents a bushel to \$2.25, more than doubled. Flour, selling for \$11.15 a barrel last week, could not be replaced at \$11.20. The average price of this same flour before the war was \$5.00 to \$5.50 a barrel. Again the price has more than doubled.

Oats have also gone up, 50 to 85 cents are what they are selling for now per bushel, against 50 to 55 cents normally. At that more oats have been sold recently, as their advance has not been so much as other grains. Rice is an everyday diet for Southern people. Last year the biggest sorgho and the biggest crop the world had ever seen was produced. Rice started going up about two months ago and is steadily climbing higher. Recently the government and various organizations have been preaching to the people in the north that rice should take the place of potatoes, which were too costly for them to eat. This change is being made

and the consumption is being greatly increased. Another reason is given for the soaring price. Heretofore rice has been imported into this country. This year because of the conditions brought about by the war no rice has been imported, but a considerable quantity has been exported. Rice formerly selling at from \$3.25 to \$4.00 a bag is now \$4.00 to \$5.00 and the consumption is steadily increasing, because it is one of the cheapest articles of food.

Sugar is hard to get now and daily the brokers who have been handling it are withdrawing from the market. It has gone up from 5 cents a pound to 9 cents, nearly seventy-five per cent. advance in price.

Take hog products. Butts, the cheapest meat on the market, have soared to an almost unreachable height. From the normal 7 1-2 cents a pound they are bringing 19 1-4 cents. Other meat is in proportion. Lard, normally 7 3-4 cents, is now 17 1-2.

Molasses is another common household food harder to get than ever before, at least some brands of it. Take the cheapest grades, which formerly sold at 11 cents a gallon. They now bring 30 cents. More money is made by converting this grade of syrup into explosives than by selling it for eating purposes. Corn syrup jumped from 30 to 35c a gallon and it is almost impossible to get it at that price. Cane syrup has not increased so much. From 40 to 42 cents a gallon it has gone to 54 cents. All can syrups are high, having increased from 75 cents to \$1.00 a case.

Salt is another necessity which has been caught up in the ascension. It has gone from 50 to 80 cents a bag and is steadily going higher.

Peas and beans are also ballooning. Lima beans which one time sold for 6 to 7 cents a pound are now selling at 13 and 13 1-2 cents a pound. Market peas have gone from four cents a pound to 8 3-4 cents.

Take the various kinds of condensed milks. The Dime brand is up from \$3.50 to \$5.50 a case, and cans from ten to 15 cents. Evaporated milk has increased about fifty per cent in price and it is almost impossible to get it.

The ordinary sardine, salmon, and other kinds of canned fish have increased in price from fifty to a hundred per cent. Canned tomatoes have gone from 30 cents a dozen cans to \$1.45. No. 2s and can't be bought at that price now. No. 3s have gone from 90 cents a dozen to \$1.80 and cost more on recent prices. Other canned goods have increased in about the same proportion. Pickles have gone up twenty-five to thirty cents a dozen jars.

Maccaroni is still a cheap article of food. It has only increased about 15 cents a case, but indications point to it going higher. Cheese goes with maccaroni. This is not the season for it, and it is even cheaper now than it was in the winter, but with the new cheese coming in the latter part of the summer, the price is now an unknown quantity.

Canned meats have gone up, as the price of meat has changed. Potted ham is seven and a half cents more a dozen now than formerly; Vienna sausage sells for twenty cents more per dozen cans than formerly and can't be purchased. Hash, tripe sausage meat, corned and roast beef, all command very much more fancy prices now than they ever did before. Formerly they were looked upon as common food, now the high price required for them prevents any but the wealthy eating them.

Nearly everybody uses soap. Common grades have gone up about fifty cents a box. Tobacco is in the swim. Ordinary chewing tobacco has gone up 4 to 5 cents a pound. Smoking tobacco has increased even more.

Paper is with the bird gang. It has gone up like the lark, and now practically all grades are nearly triple in price what they were a couple of years ago. Ordinary wrapping cord is nearly as bad.

But changing from the groceryman to the butcher, see what is being done there for poor Mr. Ultimate Consumer. Cattle have gone up two cents a pound on the hoof, from 5 1-2 to 7 1-2 cents. Hogs have gone from 8 to 10 cents and can't be bought at that price. Hogs and cattle were shipped from Sumter last fall. Now it is hard to get them at any reasonable price

THE GREAT CREATORE AND HIS BAND

FRED CRAFT

A GORGEOUS PRODUCTION OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S

MIKADO

AT THE BIG REDPATH TENT

PRINCESS WATAHWASO

SALA-ELETTA

MARIE MAYER

THE GREAT CREATORE

THE MIKADO

DECEMBER

REDPATH CHAUTAUQUA COMING --- APRIL 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26

The products of cattle and hogs handled by the butcher have gone up practically double the increase on the hogs, that is 4 cents a pound higher than they were.

At the same time clothing has also skyrocketed. At least most forms of clothing have increased in price. Men's clothing and furnishings are up about 25 per cent., boys' clothing has gone up 50 per cent. Shoes are from 50 to 75 per cent. higher, while a great many kinds of shoes have been withdrawn from the market. Many of the clothing houses stocked up heavily prior to the general increase in price and the purchasing of these goods at that time has tended to keep the price of clothing down. However, it is expected that when these stocks of goods are expended that the prices of clothing will soar, as much or more than the prices of foodstuffs have soared. The great need for cloth to make uniforms and tents for troops is expected to be an incentive to further increase in prices of the various kinds of cloth and no one knows what the future may have in store in the way of high prices.

A resume of price increases has been given. It all shows that prices have risen and are rising, not only on foodstuffs, but on all other stuffs as well. The entrance of the United States into the war is calculated to still further increase prices, as this country will export the supply of goods here.

The slogan "Grow Food or Go Hungry" seems a most appropriate one. Every man, woman and child should heed the call and "do his or her bit" for State and country, as well as for self preservation.

To Speak at Dalzell School.

Dr. K. V. Millard will speak at the Dalzell school auditorium on Friday night, April 20, at 7:30 o'clock. His subject will be "Recent Discoveries in Egypt—How They Stand by the Bible." The public is invited to attend.

SUMTER COTTON MARKET.

Corrected Daily by ERNEST FIELD, Cotton Buyer.

Good Middling	20 1-4
Strict Middling	20 1-8
Middling	20
Strict Low Middling	19 3-4
Low Middling	19 1-4
Staple cotton	23 to 27.

Corrected Daily by HARBY & CO., Cotton Buyers.

Good Middling	20 1-4
Strict Middling	20 1-8
Middling	20
Strict Low Middling	19 3-4
Low Middling	19 1-4

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET.

	Open	High	Low	Close	Close
May	20.45	.48	.14	.29	.42
July	20.94	.04	19.68	.85	20.05
Oct	18.85	.89	.56	.67	.96
Dec	18.89	.89	.60	.70	.99

New York spots 20.50.

"The man who is his own worst enemy is a paradox for he thereby goes back on his best friend."

THE MAN WITH THE HOE.

He is the Man Behind the Man With the Gun.

Not every man can afford the luxury of enlisting in the army or navy in time of war. In this country millions needed in the factories and on farms will not in fact, be permitted to enlist. The commercial, and industrial, and agricultural activities must go forward with as little interference as possible. Each is as necessary to the prosecution of war as the government's military campaigns. Perhaps it is more correct to say they are a part of the military campaigns.

Farmers who raise more food, miners who speed up the output of coal and iron, lumber men who rush timber from the forests, the railroads and ships that speed up transportation, as well as the munition factories and battleship builders, are necessary to the proper prosecution of the war. Every individual or corporation that performs with increased efficiency is bearing a part of the nation's war burden.

Military service is the point of the lance, the edge of the sword. It is the more spectacular service, but credit should be given those who maintain the soldiers in the field through efforts as onerous and as important and often as dangerous as those of the fighting men.

No man should be content who is not serving in the one capacity or the other. He who is indifferent is to be pitied and will be scorned.

What "State of War" Is.

A "declaration of war" by one nation against another is an outright announcement that one intends to wage war on the other. The declaration is normally sent to the enemy's government. Usually the responsibility for the war, in such a case lies with the nation declaring it.

The United States has engaged in four foreign wars, but never has declared war in any of these cases, nor has any nation ever declared war against the United States.

"State of war" was declared to exist in 1812 with Great Britain, in 1846 with Mexico and in 1898 with Spain. A declaration of independence brought on the war of 1776.

"State of war" means that the country recognizing such a condition believes it has been attacked, war is being waged against it, and is necessary for national defense and security to fight back.

Recognition of a "state of war" places the responsibility for the war and its consequences upon the other nation.

The Hague, April 13.—Soldiers in uniform today were reported as joining the food rioters in Germany. The unrest over starvation rations has increased to an alarming extent, says news from the frontier. Unconfirmed reports reached here that food riots in Eldorff on Easter became so serious that troops were forced to fire into the mobs. Many arrests were made.

"Why is it that an overdressed, or underdressed woman, will be angry when men stare at her and disappointed when they do not?"

THE WEEK'S WEATHER.

Showers Middle of Week and Colder Near End.

For South Atlantic and East Gulf States: Showers and thunderstorms probably Tuesday and Wednesday, otherwise generally fair weather will prevail; first half of week will be warmer, latter half colder.

The Darlington Paving.

The Bank of Darlington's bid of \$1,900 premium for the \$50,000 issue of local street improvement bonds was accepted on April 6, there being seven other bidders. About \$30,000 of the issue will be sold at once; the balance to be sold as the revenue is needed for the prosecution of the work.

Lee & Palmer, of Sumter, who were elected engineers, finished the survey several days ago, and will shortly submit plans and specifications for the paving of the business section of the city. Bids will then be called for, and the work will begin as soon as the contract can be awarded.—Darlington News and Press.

NOTICE.

All negro citizens of the city and county of Sumter are invited and urged to be present at a mass meeting to be held at the Lincoln School building at 8 o'clock Monday evening, the 16th of April, called for the purpose of affording the men of the race opportunity of giving expression, in a public way, of their loyalty to the government of the United States. Let every man turn out and attest his allegiance to the flag.

- W. T. Andrews,
- E. A. Walters,
- C. W. Birnie, M. D.,
- C. W. Maxwell, M. D.,
- W. W. Felder, M. D.,
- A. J. Andrews,
- M. J. Frederick,
- S. J. McDonald,
- Chas. A. Lawson,
- Rev. I. D. Davis,
- Rev. C. C. Jacobs,
- Rev. J. W. Moultrie,
- Rev. I. W. Williams,
- Rev. E. W. Dix,
- Rev. J. J. Starks,
- Rev. J. W. Foster,
- R. W. Westberry,
- E. E. Jones,
- J. C. Prioleau.

There does not seem to be anything approximating a rush of volunteers to enlist in either the army or navy. Sumter county's quota for the navy is twenty-one, and thus far only five or six have applied. Those who are liable for military service and do not volunteer will be drafted into service when the selective compulsory service law becomes operative, and then Sumter will furnish quite a number.

Chief of Police Sumter, acting under instructions of the Attorney General of the United States, has posted notice for all aliens of enemy countries resident in Sumter to report to him for immediate registration and at the same time surrender any arms that they have in their possession. Failure to obey the order will be followed by severe punishment.

TO CAMP AT STYX.

First Regiment Troops to Move to Camp Moore Monday.

Columbia, April 14.—The war department today ordered the companies of the First regiment to proceed to Camp Moore at Styx in Lexington county, "upon completion of mobilization." Lieut. Col. P. K. McCully, commanding the regiment, informed the adjutant general's office that he would be ready to move by Monday morning. Arrangements for transportation by special trains were made immediately by the adjutant general.

The regiment is expected in camp about Monday night to be mustered into the federal service.

The opinion was expressed today that it will not be many days before the call for the Second regiment and the troop A cavalry.

RENT FREE FARM.

F. H. Hyatt, of Columbia, Offers Five Hundred Acres For Food Farms.

Columbia, April 13.—A progressive step to help solve the food problem in South Carolina was taken today by F. H. Hyatt, a well known Columbia business man. He offered rent free a tract of land containing 500 acres near Columbia to anyone who would plant food crops. No man will be allowed more than 5 acres. The working people of Columbia will be urged to accept the offer.

It is said that other men in South Carolina having large tracts of land are contemplating the same move. A garden will also be planted on the State house grounds under the direction of the State house commission. The slogan of the South Carolina Preparedness Commission is "Service for all." The farmers and city folk are being urged to grow food and help win the war.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

Recruits for Both Branches of Service Have Been Secured.

The recruiting officers of the two branches of the service have been exceedingly active of late and some recruits have been added to both branches of the service.

The following order was received here today by Army Recruiting Officer Peterson: "It is the policy of the war department to discharge from service at the termination of the emergency all men who have enlisted in the regular army since the declaration of war, or who now enlist. This policy also applies to the National Guard."

Sergeant Peterson has secured two recruits for the army; Messrs. John W. Wetherbee and Charley E. Whitington.

The following men have made application for enlistment in the United States navy and are now waiting for their age papers, Charles McDonald, Brick, Ralph Heyward Ramsey, Wedgenfeld; Dewey Tomlinson, Lynchburg. The men have been examined by J. O. Hackler of the United States navy, who is in charge of the recruiting party now located in the city.