

BOYCOTT MAY CLOSE 8,000 N. Y. STORES

Jewish Dealers Urged to Close if Police Protection Is Refused.

WILL SEE MAYOR TO-DAY

Prices of Potatoes, Onions and Poultry Take Sharp Drop at Wholesale.

Housewives engaged as pickets in enforcing the potato, onion and poultry boycott have made it so difficult for storekeepers to do business with safety to themselves and their stocks that the Federation of Hebrew Retail Grocers' Association, Inc., has recommended to its 8,000 members the closing of their 8,000 stores for a few days unless the city authorities grant them full police protection.

A call has been issued for a mass meeting of all members at Manhattan Lyceum Monday afternoon to indorse a resolution to this effect adopted at a special executive meeting of the association yesterday afternoon. A committee consisting of I. Rothstein, A. Aronoff and Nathan M. Padgug, general attorney, will call upon Mayor Mitchell this afternoon to ask for a guarantee of police aid.

Cut Price Offer Refused.

Evidence that the women of the East Side and elsewhere are determined to keep up their boycott, which men in the potato, onion and poultry trade say has paralyzed their business, was forthcoming yesterday. Live poultry dealers made overtures of lower prices to the women, but officers of the Mothers' Anti-High Price League, receiving no guarantee that cheaper prices would continue for a reasonable period, threw up their hands and showed the committee out of their headquarters. The announcement followed that the boycott would go on.

The boycotting and rioting made more trouble for the potato market. Lower prices were offered even at interior markets and shipping points. Those who are loaded up with potatoes here found themselves in a bad fix. They didn't want to let go at a loss and retailers wouldn't buy; anyhow, not in any volume that was worth while. There were some small sales of Maine potatoes at \$1 and \$1.25 for 150 pounds wholesale. A week ago the price was from \$1.12 to \$1.14.

Onions Much Lower.

For the first time in ten days there were real buyers in the onion market, but not much actual business was done. One carload of yellow California onions was sold at \$3 a 100 pounds, but the price for State and Western yellow onions was from \$6.50 to \$7.50. A week ago onions brought anywhere from \$11 to \$18 a 100 pound bag, wholesale. The live poultry market was in a deplorable condition. There were ninety-three carloads on the tracks and about twenty only were unloaded. Most of these sold were to Harlem and West Bronx and to points in New Jersey. The holders of the fowls could do practically nothing but feed their unsold stock and that costs money. The wholesale market price was generally around 19 1/2 and 20 cents a pound.

The decision of the Jewish grocers to shut up their shops and quit business for a while unless they are assured that the police will protect them was due to the methods of the women boycotters who are making their lives unbearable. These women go through the streets looking for boycotted foodstuffs. They are death particularly on potatoes, onions and poultry.

How Boycotters Operate.

They take up positions in front of grocery stores and warn customers going in not to buy the proscribed commodities. To make sure that no one is smuggled out, they seize innocent looking parcels, tear them open and dump their contents in the streets. Many grocers' employees have been attacked and more than one storekeeper has been nuzzed up just on general principles. The grocers say they are getting awfully tired of the rioting and picketing and that's why the Federation of Hebrew Retail Grocers adopted their resolution yesterday.

The association set forth in its resolution that the grocer had tried his utmost to cooperate with the various organizations but without success, and therefore he simply had to have protection or quit business for a time.

Hartigan Appealed To.

A committee of wholesale live poultry dealers called yesterday on Joseph Hartigan, Commissioner of Weights and Measures, and admitted to him that the housewives' boycott had been eminently successful. Live poultry is piling up on their hands, they said, and they didn't want to turn them into dressed fowl. More than ninety carloads, 20,000 pounds of poultry to the car, remained unsold, they said, and they were willing to cooperate with slaughter house men, retail butchers and housewives to end it all.

The committee made the offer to fix the wholesale live weight price at from 18 to 19 1/2 cents a pound.

"If we sell at 19 cents," the head of the committee said, "the slaughter house man can sell at 20 cents and the retail butcher will be able to sell at 22 cents a pound, making a fair profit. This will make poultry cheaper to the housewives than meat. Sour meat is now from 24 to 28 cents, veal is 32 cents, chickens are from 23 to 25 cents and plates are 23 cents a pound."

Women Next Called Upon.

Commissioner Hartigan suggested that the committee negotiate directly with the officers of the Mothers' Anti-High Price League, and all hands went up to see Mrs. Panken, chairman of the executive committee; Mrs. Anna Pastor, mother of Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes, treasurer, and Abraham Plotkin, secretary. The call accomplished absolutely nothing. The live poultry men told the housewives' representatives they couldn't promise that the price would come down after the supplies they now have on hand were sold at the new price.

In fact the dealers were pretty sure there was going to be a great shortage of live poultry in the not distant future and they were unable to predict what prices would be then. Mrs. Panken and her colleagues concluded that the wholesalers were dickering to get rid of the thirty or more carloads they have on hand to stop the expense of feeding without making any guarantee for the future, and the negotiations were broken off. The women gave assurances that the boycott would be carried on with more vigor than ever until at least 2-3,000,000 women had joined the movement.

Advice Against Closing.

Commissioner Hartigan advised the women to accept the terms of the wholesalers and call off the boycott. He strongly urged the retail grocers, however, not to take any action looking to

the closing of their stores, saying that action might tend to excite housewives who were unable to buy other necessities. He believed closing the stores would make more trouble for the police than the boycotters are making.

Commissioner Hartigan continued yesterday to receive telegrams from heads of departments of foods and markets in various States telling where there are supplies of potatoes and onions and on what terms New York can get them.

One commissioner telegraphed about one man who had 15,000 barrels of potatoes which he would let go at \$10 a barrel and of another who would sell the same amount at \$8.50.

Another commissioner offered to see to it that from five to ten carloads of yellow onions, now en route, would be diverted to New York at 11 cents a pound; also from ten to twenty-five carloads of potatoes at 5 cents a pound.

Beef Prices Cheaper.

Mr. Hartigan's inspectors reported yesterday that the wholesale price of beef had fallen off from 1-2 to 1 cent a pound. The wholesale price of eggs took another drop from 12 to 1 cent a dozen.

In his criticism to the Mayor of the rice pamphlet issued by the Mayor's food supply committee, of which George W. Perkins is chairman, Dr. Haven Emerson, Health Commissioner, said: "May I suggest that the food committee refrain from issuing additional bulletins until our case has been examined and approved by this department."

The Mayor had a talk with Dr. Emerson. He told him plainly and frankly, it is understood, that he approved of the unwholesome activities of Mr. Perkins and his colleagues.

The Health Department issued yesterday a bulletin advising housewives to buy medium sized prunes, which average forty to fifty to the pound, and added:

"According to dietetic experts, 1 cent's worth of prunes supplies 89 food units, 1 cent's worth of dried apples supplies 85 food units, and 1 cent's worth of dried apricots supplies 63 food units."

Publicity Brings Price Cuts. Louis Kadans, a produce dealer at 206 Greenwich street, said yesterday that there is no reason either under the law of supply or demand or any law for the decline in the price of butter and eggs at this time. Declines will continue, he said, "as long as the newspapers keep on pounding."

Bailey H. Burritt, general director of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, said yesterday at a meeting of the association's board of managers that after a careful investigation he is confident the city's retail dealers should be absolved from all charges that they are taking advantage of the situation for their own profit. He said they doubtless are doing business at present on a smaller margin of profit than usual rather than raise prices as much as they might have been expected to do.

Isaac Rosenzweig, the Harlem produce dealer arrested for pointing a revolver at women who attempted to spill a wagonload of vegetables, was discharged yesterday by Magistrate Simms in Harlem police court. The dealer had a permit to carry a revolver, and the Magistrate said he acted within his rights. Mrs. Gussie Luber of 70 East 100th street, accused by Rosenzweig of leading the women, was sent to jail for fifteen days.

TO AMEND WICKS BILL.

Albany Hearing on Food Measure Develops Many Defects.

ALBANY, Feb. 28.—After a long open session to-day of the legislative committee which bears his name, at which many persons picked flaws in the bill drafted to relieve the food situation in the State, Senator Wicks announced no further hearings would be held until March 20.

Having listened to the many complaints, Mr. Wicks admitted that the measure would have to be amended. Many members of the Legislature, it had developed, believe that the number of paid commissioners should be reduced from five to three, and that compensation of \$6,000 a year would be more reasonable than the \$8,000 provided.

The criticism offered by the day's witnesses covered a wide range. Victor K. McIlhenny charged that the bill discriminated against the fruit industry, and if put into operation would work to the injury of John J. Dillon, State Commissioner of Foods and Markets, accused the bill's framers of lacking in a "comprehension of the agricultural interests of the State." Frank Denuth, representing various tax payers' organizations of New York, characterized the whole measure as a "filibuster."

Weights Law Left Out.

John F. Farrell, State Superintendent of Weights and Measures, whose department is to be included in the new Foods and Markets Department according to the present arrangement, objected because the provision of the present law calling for the stamping of the weight of contents of containers has been omitted. He reviewed the steps taken by his department in a fight of two and a half years to compel the big meat packing enterprises to stamp the weight of hams and bacon on packages, and said the entire gain accomplished would be lost.



Light, Courtes and Clothes

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299 MADISON AVE Corner 41st Street.

Advice Against Closing.

Commissioner Hartigan advised the women to accept the terms of the wholesalers and call off the boycott. He strongly urged the retail grocers, however, not to take any action looking to

unless this section were inserted. Members of the committee thereupon said the omission was an oversight which would be corrected.

Others who opposed the bill were Albert G. Milbank, chairman of the law committee of the New York State Milk Dealers' Association; Charles W. Hinton, president of the New York City Retail Grocers' Association; William Truman of the Elmer County Grange and Mrs. Blocker Bangs.

Commissioner Dillon promised that with proper legislation his department would be able to furnish milk to the residents of New York city without an advance in price, while paying more to the farmer. He charged that the committee's plan was faulty in its entirety, and said the farmers had dug up a set of old statistics affecting milk distribution for incorporation in the proposed new law.

George W. Perkins, chairman of Mayor Mitchell's food committee and Gov. Whitman's choice for head of the State Department of Foods and Markets, paid his respects to the New York Board of Aldermen.

"I asked Mayor Mitchell," he said, "who was in charge of the food situation in New York city and through which department it was being handled. I was amazed to find that there is no such

local department. Think of that! I heard that the responsibility rested with the Board of Aldermen, and from my experience with that body I am sure that information was correct, for I have never known of anything constructive coming from it.

"What we want now is to get a man on the job. We want a department able to cope with a situation which is becoming more serious every day, and we want the proper officials up State to aid in the effort to get an adequate food supply into the city. Three million dollars worth of food is consumed in New York city daily and practically all of it comes from a distance. Even if there were tillable lands near by, so their products could be delivered by wagon or automobile truck, we would receive only about 5 per cent of the food needed.

"We must get at the fundamentals of this problem. When the European war started many of our toilers were out of employment and others were getting lower wages than they are receiving to-day. The war increased the demand upon us for supplies and put idle men to work, but conditions are changing so rapidly that the advance in the cost of the necessities of life has been higher than the rise in wages. A reduction in the cost of foodstuffs may come with the close of the war, but we must keep in

mind the possibility of a reduction in wages also. We must furnish immediate relief where such aid is needed, and then we must consider what can be done for the permanent good of the people."

George A. Wheelock of New York city believed much of the existing misery was attributable to the fact that "too many people are living beyond their means."

At the outset of the hearing, Judge George L. Ward, counsel to the committee, complained of a "woful misunderstanding" of the bill's purport and effect. He insisted that much opposition came from men actuated by selfish motives.

"Among these opponents are men who have been shaking down the people of the State for millions," said Ward.

Bronx Pashcard Market Broken Up. Three hundred pushcart pedlers were chased away from Bathgate avenue, The Bronx, between 177th street and Claremont Parkway, by policemen stirred into action by a writ of mandamus issued by Justice Mitchell. Property owners and shopkeepers of the neighborhood protested that the pedlers' carts interfered with property values and business.

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To The American People GERMANY IS DAILY COMMITTING ACTS OF WAR AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. Peaceful passenger vessels have been sunk without warning, with the loss of innocent men, women and children. The lives of American citizens are daily imperilled in deliberate defiance of our solemn warnings. American vessels lie idle in American harbors, blockaded by German threats. American business is hampered, American commerce is grievously restricted. IT IS NO LONGER A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE SHALL BE WAR WITH GERMANY GERMANY IS ALREADY WARRING AGAINST OUR CITIZENS AND AGAINST THEIR COMMERCE The only question is whether our Government shall submit at Germany's dictation to the outrages of her submarine warfare, or whether it shall forcibly defend American sovereignty. Will the American people tolerate a merely formal diplomatic break which works irreparable injury to American interests, or even a so-called "armed neutrality" which leaves Germany free to outrage every principle of humanity and justice by murdering American women and children on the peaceful passenger vessels of other nations? "In such a gigantic struggle, in which the future of civilization is in play, is it worthy of America to confine herself to an ineffective vindication of neutral rights at sea, and to moderate charitable giving?" "It is time for lovers of public liberty and justice to cease to be merely lookers-on at the prodigious catastrophe. It is time to express forcibly their convictions as to the side on which the right lies, and to make ready to take part in the terrible strife." CHARLES W. ELIOT in N. Y. Times, July 27 and March 12, 1916. "There was no European war after that fateful hour on the morning of the 4th of August, 1914, when enemy troops crossed the line of unoffending, innocent, peace-loving Belgium. . . . That event made that war an American war . . . a war for every man and every woman who hopes to live in freedom, in liberty, and in peaceful progress." NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, in address at Columbia University, Feb. 6, 1917, quoted in N. Y. Herald, Feb. 7. THE SINKING OF THE LACONIA, like the sinking of the Lusitania, was a deliberate challenge to the manhood of America. Are you too timid to fight for the protection of your women and children? Are you willing to let France and England bear the whole burden of vanquishing the outlaw who is murdering your people? Will you stand selfishly aside while others fight for you the battle for human liberties? If not, telegraph the President and your Congressman urging that America shall do her part in subduing the German menace to civilization. Dr. Lyman Abbott New York Talcott Williams New York Agnes Repplier Philadelphia Dr. Richard C. Cabot Boston Dr. Morton Prince Boston Prof. William Gardner Hale Chicago William Roscoe Thayer Boston Rev. Randolph H. McKim Washington, D. C. Prof. Franklin H. Giddings Princeton University Columbia University John Grier Hibben Princeton University Dr. Theodore C. Janeway Philadelphia Dr. W. W. Keen Philadelphia Judge Frank Doster Los Angeles AMERICAN RIGHTS LEAGUE 2 West 45th Street, New York Geo. Haven Putnam, Pres't. Douglas W. Johnson, Chairman, Exec. Com. Wm. Emerson, Sec'y and Treas. Attend the Patriotic Mass Meeting in Carnegie Hall on Monday night, March 5.