

THE DAY BOOK

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200 S. PEARIA ST. CHICAGO, ILL.

Telephones Editorial, Monroe 233
Circulation, Monroe 2328

Subscription—By Carrier in
Chicago, 50 cents a Month.

Entered as second-class matter April
21, 1914, at the postoffice at Chicago,
Ill., under the Act of March 2, 1879.

LET THERE BE MUCH PUBLIC-

ITY.—The department of justice has inaugurated its investigations in the big cities into the soaring prices of food, fuel and other necessities, spurred thereto by the outcry against the high cost of living.

Does not the whole matter resolve itself into the question: Is the producer getting the benefit of the high prices?

This nation is still largely agricultural. If the raisers of grains, cotton and wool are making big profits on their labor the situation has features far from calamitous. If these raisers are paying exorbitant prices for what they must buy and are not getting the apparently big profits on what they raise there is nothing save calamity in the situation.

In considering the increasing cost of living we can closely approximate the increased pay of city workmen. It is different in respect to the farmer. To get more pay the latter must raise more or actually receive more for what he already raises. At the same time the farmer feels the burden of the high cost of living as seriously as anybody.

The crux of the federal investigation is the discovery of the parties who are finally getting the big profits. We think that that will spur the producers on to applying the remedy, themselves, either through

vocational organization or united political action. The volumes of anti-extortion legislation we have doesn't seem to touch the spot.

ANSWERING "YES" OR "NO."—

Col. Waters, who died in Kansas City recently, had practiced law longer than any other lawyer in Kansas City. He was admitted to the bar in Macomb, Ill., before he was 21 years old. Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer practicing in the same district then and Waters rode in the same circuit with him. Once Col. Waters retained his friend to help him in a case. The opposing lawyer demanded one of their witnesses should answer a certain question with a direct "yes" or "no." Lincoln contended the question could not be answered in that way. "There is no question on earth that can't be answered with a direct 'yes' or 'no'," declared the lawyer.

"You take the stand for a moment and I'll show you," said Lincoln.

The lawyer took the stand and Lincoln asked him: "Have you quit beating your wife?" The lawyer became indignant and Lincoln repeated his question. The judge, laughing heartily, insisted the lawyer must answer.

With the aid of Lincoln, Waters won the case.

WELCOME THE COB.—And now cigars have joined the "higher price" procession and are going up.

Which is the first time on record where the poor man coppers a bet. Corn cob pipes are still selling for a nickel per.

M. T. DOME'S TRAVELOGUES

Wisconsin boasts of having the only lake of its kind in the world. The water is slightly moist and the waves are divided by four, are flat and roll three feet below the surface owing to the shore being built so close to the lake.

We see T. R. is getting Fijity.