

The New Food Law.

If the new food control law does not work with some urgent reforms in the food conditions now prevailing, the people of the country will be much disappointed. The new law gives to the president powers of unprecedented latitude, though, of course, the success of its operation will depend largely upon the wisdom with which his subordinates execute its provisions under his directions. The following are the principal provisions of the act:

It gives the president control over foods, feeds, fuel (including fuel oil and natural gas), fertilizer ingredients, farm machinery and tools.

It allows the president to license business and plants and to revoke these licenses, farmers and stock raisers being exempt from this section.

Authorizes and empowers the president through the federal trade commission to control, take over and operate coal mines and to fix the price.

Directs the president when an emergency exists to fix a minimum price of wheat, making the minimum \$2 for No. 1 northern, for the 1918 crop, and allows him to enhance the duty on foreign wheat to bring it to the American price.

Prevents the use of foods, fruits, food materials or feeds in the manufacture of distilled spirits and allows the president to limit the alcoholic contents of malt or vinous liquors.

Authorizes and directs the president to commandeer distilled spirits as far as necessary for war use, the courts to determine the price.

Directs the president to spend \$10,000,000 for nitrates and sell them to farmers at cost.

Prevents members of the advisory commission of the council of national defense from participating in government contracts.

Punishes hoarding and destruction of foodstuffs and speculation. Allows the president to close grain exchanges, boards of trade, etc., in order to prevent speculation.

Authorizes the president to requisition supplies for the army and navy. Authorizes him to buy, store and sell wheat, flour, meat, beans and potatoes.

Allows him to take over factories, packing houses, pipelines, mines, or other plants and operate them.

The sum of \$2,500,000 is provided for running expenses and \$150,000,000 to carry out the work of the whole food administration. The food control ceases at the expiration of the war.

It is certain that no other American president was ever given such far-reaching power. There appears to be no possible contingency which is not provided for, no emergency which can not be reached and no evil which cannot be remedied and abolished, if the law is wisely and fearlessly enforced. Mistakes will be made, in the very nature of things—and perhaps some very serious ones. Therein lies the danger. This is a tremendous country, tremendous in size and tremendous in the diversity and conflicting scope of its interests. But its large size makes for effectiveness in dealing with problems whose acuteness is emphasized by that very magnitude.

Many persons will believe it unwise to exempt farmers and stock raisers, or any other so-called class from the provisions designed to prevent undue combinations for selfish purposes. But the law may prove ample to correct any evils which spring up from this exemption. Certainly the loyalty and usefulness of the farmer are not to be discounted or denied without ample cause, and it will rest very largely with the farmers themselves to demonstrate that their exemption is justifiable. It will not be fair to presume that they will pervert the exemption by extorting rapacious prices for their products when the heavy hand of repressive legislation is laid upon all other producers.

The wisdom of the law should be proved or its fallacies demonstrated, if there are any, without undue loss of time. It will go into effect within a couple of weeks, and the public will be inclined to suspend judgment until sufficient time has elapsed for a fair trial. It might be observed, however, that the sooner some beneficial results appear, the sooner will the people applaud the judgment which made the law possible. Obviously, existing conditions cannot be tolerated indefinitely, and the sole purpose of the new law was to remedy those conditions.

Patriotic Fund.

To the Oregon Camp, W. W. of A., 5056:

You are hereby notified that "Patriotic Fund" By-law (Section 58) was adopted at the Chicago Head Camp, assessing every Beneficial member of the Modern Woodmen of America 10 cents per month on each \$500 of insurance carried by him in said Society, said assessment to be first payable with Benefit assessment No. 9, levied for September, 1917, and with each Benefit assessment thereafter, until discontinued by order of the Board of Directors. The purpose of such assessment is to provide a fund out of which to pay the death claims of all Modern Woodmen who may lose their lives in the service of the United States or Canada in the present war. If you have already paid some of your assessments in advance of Assessment No. 8, for August, kindly remit the additional amount due AT ONCE. I can not send the Head Clerk a partial remittance. Remember that this change becomes effective with Assessment No. 9.

Your hearty co-operation in this matter will be sincerely appreciated. Yours fraternally,

J. J. LUKENS, Clerk Camp No. 5056, M. W. of A.

Attention, Comrades!

Members of Meyer Post will meet at the home of T. C. Fuller, on Saturday afternoon, August 25, at 8 o'clock. Comrades B. F. Morgan and Wm. M. Morris will provide the necessary transportation.

G. W. CUMMINS, Commander, F. S. MORGAN, Adjutant.

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ED HICKS, West Side Cafe Oregon, Mo.

Wheat Acreage Must Be Increased.

More wheat must be grown. It is estimated that the Missouri acreage must be increased 30 per cent this fall over the acreage sown last fall if the state furnishes its quota of wheat needed in the United States and Europe. Concerning the necessity of increasing production, J. C. Hackleman, of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, and chairman of the seed stocks committee of the Missouri Council of Defense, has given the following interview to the press:

"There can be no question but that we are now facing a serious shortage of food in the world's store house and we must prepare to export more wheat during the next year and a half than ever before in the history of the United States.

"Our exports of wheat in 1916 were not to exceed 25 per cent of our production. During 1917 we must export 49 per cent and if this war continues longer than next year, we may be compelled to exceed even that figure if we supply the food which our allies must have.

"Missouri has been asked in this great wheat stimulation program to increase the wheat acreage very materially over the acreage sown last fall. The increase necessary is about 30 per cent over the area sown last fall, but considering the harvested acreage this summer it will be necessary to increase from 1,539,000 to 2,400,000 acres.

"This increase means an average of about ten acres per farm instead of approximately seven as has been grown. The farmer, therefore, who sows 20 acres of wheat last fall will sow at least 27 this fall. The man who sowed 50 acres will sow 65 to 70.

"Were it not for the fact that the world is hungry and the fact that there is an actual scarcity in the visible bread stuffs supply of the world, the farmers might be facing a glutted market. The condition of the world's food store, however, guarantees a heavy demand for all food produced, and especially is this true of the wheat from which the soldiers' bread must come.

"There never was a time in the history of the state and nation when the prospects were better for the farmer to make excellent profits from his farming operations. This is particularly true of wheat and the farmer who increases his acreage by 30 per cent will not only be rendering a patriotic service, but he will at the same time be taking advantage of a good business opportunity."

Migratory Birds.

The United States senate has just sent the country another step forward on the path of food conservation. By an overwhelming majority it passed the enabling act which gives effect to the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds. The treaty was ratified a year ago, but it needed the enabling act to give it force, which, it is to be assumed, the house will also pass. Canada long ago passed the needed legislation. This country has been a laggard on the matter for a year. The great organized movement for the protection of birds, growing rapidly throughout the Union in Audubon societies, bird clubs, wild life protection societies, affiliating rapidly through the realization of common aims and a common good. The federal law protecting migratory birds, the convention with Great Britain, the enabling act, all are forward steps in the march of human progress.

Sinister forces have sought to delay this march. Organized efforts against needed game protection, a sane protection which benefits the sportsman as well as the altruist, developed long ago in this as well as many other states. Cape Cod today sends senators and representatives to the state house on this issue. Missouri has sent them to Washington on it. In both states and in all cases the fight has been waged by these sinister forces, against a sane and reasonable protection of game birds which the real sportsmen have demanded from one end of the country to the other. They organized to defy the federal law and carried their defiance of it to the supreme court of the United States, where the matter has been twice argued and a decision is still pending. Before the passing of the treaty an adverse decision in these cases would have been a disaster to the wild life of the continent, according to the best authorities among naturalists and sportsmen alike. Now that the treaty has been ratified and the enabling act passed, it is believed that the federal regulations will continue in force whatever the supreme court decision, treaties not being scraps of paper on this side of the Atlantic.

This organized effort against sane game protection, a propaganda which has been carried on in almost every state in the Union, has had its headquarters in Missouri. Its chief spokesman at Washington is Senator Reed, one of President Wilson's pet group of "wilful men." For a long time Senator Stone worked with Reed in these matters. He, of late, seems to have seen a new light, but Reed was faithful to his fellow iconoclasts to the end. In the discussion before the final vote he obstructed the measure in every possible way, though it was evident that the sentiment of the senate was overwhelmingly in its favor. Only six other senators voted against the measure, Gore, Gronna, Hardwick, Johnson of California, King and McNary.

The fact that the enabling act has passed the senate will cause rejoicing among the bird protectionists and conservationists in general throughout the land. To protect our birds is to protect our crops, and everyone now has a vital interest in crop protection.—Boston Transcript.

Better Game Department.

On Thursday last, August 16, Missouri's new game and fish commissioner, Timothy Birmingham, of St. James, Mo., took possession of his office by virtue of an appointment from Governor Gardner, who says, "Missouri is to have the best game department in its history." In a recent letter on the subject to a Mr. Grether the governor says:

"I have received a copy of your article in Sunday's Globe-Democrat, under date of July 22, all of which I have carefully read. I want to assure you that Missouri is going to have the best Game Department that she has ever had, regardless of who is appointed game warden. I am willing to give my personal word to the people of Missouri for that.

"All game laws are going to be enforced to the letter. All expenses are going to be held down to the minimum consistent with efficiency and a sufficient number of deputies to enforce the law. Where two keen, active men can do the work formerly done by three, the two will be put on. A fund must be accumulated in this department so that we can buy a state game park, located where there is good fishing and on the proposed new state highway, so the people may have the opportunity of spending the week-end camping in this park. An erroneous impression seems to have gone out as to how a state park can be purchased. The bill provides that a park cannot be purchased without the consent of the governor and the attorney general, and in view of the fact that the money for this purpose would be raised from licenses, I would be perfectly willing to consult the sportsmen of the state regarding the location of the park, because, as I view it, they would have a right to express their choice. Of course, this fund will be accumulated by degrees, and I doubt if the park can be purchased before the last year of the administration. I am going to see that the very best deputies that can be found in the state are employed. The Game Department will be brought up to the very highest standard in order to keep pace with the other departments, which are now being conducted on a strictly business basis."

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Good Roads Essential to Democracy.

Columbia, Mo., August 24, 1917.—Democracies are dependent upon mutual understanding and trust among all concerned. These qualities of understanding and trust can develop only after a period of acquaintance and this must be the outgrowth of friendly intercourse, which, in turn, may be hindered or entirely cut off by difficulties of travel. It seems logical, therefore, to believe that bad roads have an influence directly and harmfully on the permanency of democratic institutions, according to Dean E. J. McCausland, of the University of Missouri engineering school. The early New England town meeting was a source of inspiration and strength to democratic ideals. As the country developed and the population spread into the West, the solidarity of interest among the people was broken down on account of difficulties of travel, and the town meeting, as an institution, passed away. The telephone and the motor car have done much to bring back a realization of common interests, and in no way can the cause of democracy be more permanently advanced than in making easy the possibility of travel and interchange of ideas. No idea is of much value unless it can be communicated to others. The isolation of farm life must be eliminated by the continuous development of road building programs that will finally enable the people to get together easily.

Cut the Weeds.

Road overseers in many sections are neglecting to comply with the law which requires them to cut all weeds and brush growing on the right-of-way of public roads which come under their supervision. Many of our roads are too narrow, and the cutting of weeds by the wayside will make the roads more safe to travel, and unless the weeds are cut before the seeds ripen there will be a more bountiful crop to contend with next year.

Osmer Schulte, son of Philip Schulte, of St. Joseph, who is a railway mail clerk, on trains 26 and 27, the Omaha runs, was drafted and accepted, but asked exemption on the grounds of having dependents.

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