

Review of Condition Relating to H. C. of L. War at Capitol

By J. E. Jones
According to the President "every element of normal life amongst us depends upon and awaits the ratification of the treaty of peace." These were the words he used in his opening address to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the White House conference. He said that the copper mines of Montana, Arizona and Alaska, are being operated at a loss; and that the zinc mines of Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin are being operated at one-half of their capacity, while the lead mines of Idaho, Illinois and Missouri reach only a part of their former markets. The demand for cotton belting and lubricating oil, the President stated, cannot be met. After citing these examples, he observed that "there is hardly a single raw material, a single important food-stuff, or a single class of manufactured goods which is not in the same case." All this, he finds is true "because the channels of trade are barred by war when there is no war." As a result "our full, normal, profitable production waits on peace."

WHEN WILL WAR BE OVER?
Bureau of Labor statistics show that the price of clothing in Seattle, increased from December, 1914, to June 30 of the present year, 110 per cent; while it went up to 139 per cent in Jacksonville, Florida, with the balance of the country soaring in between these price altitudes. Housing, fuel, light, furniture, furnishing and miscellaneous items are lowest in the Pacific States, and have increased in those regions 65 per cent; while farther east they rise to 84 per cent in Buffalo and 87 per cent in Norfolk.

A study of union wage scales in the District of Columbia, including 58 trades and occupations, shows an increase of 71 per cent from May 15, 1913, to August 9, 1919. Just how representative this condition is of other cities is problematical. It is certain that in many industrial centers that even conceding the increased cost of living, as shown by the Bureau of Labor figures, the increased wage scales mounted above the added burden on living costs, with the result that a good many "laborers" have tasted considerable real prosperity. At the same time the increase in the cost of living has hit the so-called "middle class," or "salaried people" so hard that their affairs are in far worse shape than those of the "wage-earners." This applies particularly to those who are in the trade unions, and the soldiers who served their country for a pittance have had their struggles in getting back into life's industrial channels. Lumping the rich and the poor, the large and the small, the capitalists and the small business men, it is very conservative to estimate that from one-fourth to one-half of the people of the country have not increased their earnings, sufficient to keep pace with the increased cost of living.

In the beginning of the processes of war the Government recognized "collective bargaining," and no less a person than ex-President Taft was placed at the head of the War Labor Board. Organized labor played for every advantage in the game.
In the one single instance where Government control has been in force to the limit we find that railroad employes have received wage increases in advance of the added high cost of living. This has been done at the expense of the industry itself, which is piling up huge deficits that are being cared for out of the public treasury. Industrial institutions that have had to work out their own salvation have usually increased the costs to the public. In some instances this has resulted in profiteering—and the Government is now hunting out instances of this kind.

But there has been no constructive and systematic process of equalizing matters since the beginning of the war. As shown above, one-half the people of the country have experienced an era of prosperity while the other half have been unable to keep up with the increased demands made upon them. This half—and you find them everywhere, are the ones most anxious to know when the war will be over.

THE RIGHT AND WRONG OF ORGANIZING

The question of the right to organize cannot be lost sight of in the consideration of the questions involved in the high cost of living. That right of organization, when adopted by big business, is likely to result in prosecutions; since trusts and combinations have been held to be inimical to the public welfare. But labor can organize, and so can the farmers; and what is lawful for them is against the law and is a monopoly among the "big fellows." "What's fair to Peter is robbery in the case of Paul, for when capital seeks to organize itself to pro-

mote a big forward movement, someone like Mr. Stone of the Railroad Brotherhoods, or Mr. Plumb, arises to make caustic remarks about "Wall Street," which is tame in its methods in comparison with the labor profiteers. The right or wrong of organization apparently rests upon the theory that it makes all the difference in the world who it is that is frying the fish. And speaking about fish—has it ever occurred to you that a lot of the fish that are eating up the little ones are filling their gills in Mr. Gompers' mill pond?

FAT EARNINGS MUST BE REDUCED

The profits of packers are doubtless abnormal; but the packers are not the only pebbles on the beach that have been polished by "war when there is no war."

The Attorney General usually is prolific with promises of the things that will be done to public enemies, and it may be that he will jail a few of the scoundrels—yet! It is insisted in Washington that there will be a general attack along the line to engage the food profiteers, and one of the devices is the dumping of \$100,000,000 worth of surplus army food upon the market at prices much lower than the market quotations; delivery being made by parcel post. While it is true that the total amount of food to be sold by the Government agencies is small as compared to the total required by the population, yet it cannot fail to have a beneficial effect upon market conditions. It is one of the few steps actually made toward stopping fat profits.

PATCHWORK REMEDIES

"If there is a remedy," says Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, in discussing the H. C. of L., "let us give it to the people." The Senator wants a little more lively action in the matter, since he believes that if conditions continue as they now are that the people will lose faith in their Government, and that when that day comes it will be an evil day for the republic. He would have Congress expedite the carrying of the President's recommendations into action.

Congressman Sigel of New York, has come into the foreground in specializing upon the suggestion that dealers be required to mark prices on all commodities.

Congressman Good of Iowa, trots out the old embargo bogie, as a relief for high prices of shoes. "If you want to bring down the cost of shoes," he says, "all that is necessary is for the President to put an embargo on shoes and leather temporarily." Mr. Good thinks similar action on meat and other products would force down the domestic market, and he advances the plausible reason that exports from the United States are of the greatest volume in history.

Quite Near Enough

Marjorie and her mother were out shopping.

In one establishment the proprietor's dog, who liked children, came over and stood beside her.

Marjorie told him to get away, but he only moved closer.

The assistant asked her if she didn't like dogs, and she replied:

"I like dogs all right, but I like 'em 'cross the street."—London Answers.

MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS IN FORMATION IRON ORE

Geologists are realizing more fully as they extend their studies the magnitude of the work done by plants and animals in building up and tearing down parts of the crust of the earth. Even microscopic organisms perform a large part of this work. Pasteur long ago showed us the deadly power of bacteria in disease and their efficiency in promoting fermentation, but their influence on the fertility of soils and their work in expediting rock decay are still subjects of scientific study.

Bacteria evidently not only aid in the decomposition of rocks and in the formation of beds of chalk and limestone, but has recently been demonstrated, but are active agents in the deposition of some beds of iron ore. Engineers have learned that iron-depositing bacteria may be troublesome pests through their ability to clog the pipes of city water-supply systems with hard, thick crusts and slimy, rusty masses composed of millions of individual bacteria. Mr. E. C. Harder of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, who has examined deposits of iron ore in many countries for the special purposes of determining their mode of origin, has recently made close studies of the action of bacteria in forming iron ores. He has found the so-called "iron bacteria" actively engaged in the deposition of compounds of iron not only in surface iron-bearing waters but in mine waters to depths of several hundred feet and has made laboratory cultures of various iron-depositing bacteria. The results of these studies have just been published by the Survey as a paper entitled "Iron-depositing bacteria and their geologic relations" (Professional Paper 113).

Mr. Harder describes the iron-depositing bacteria, gives the results of his laboratory experiments in bacterial iron deposition, considers the probable extent of the influence of bacterial action in forming deposits of iron ore, and gives a bibliography containing the titles of many papers on the work of bacteria in rock and ore deposition.

Professional Paper 113 can be obtained from the Director of the United States Geological Survey at Washington, D. C.

NEW FLOTATION PLANT AT NEW CORNELIA CO. READY FOR WORKING.

AJO, Sept. 4.—Assistant Superintendent W. L. DuMoulin made the announcement that the new experimental flotation plant, recently completed by the New Cornelia Copper Co., may be placed on a regular operating basis today, the preliminary try-outs having been made the last few days.

This plant which will greatly increase the New Cornelia production, is not to be considered an experiment of the flotation process with this ore, but for the purpose of ascertaining the most economical grinding equipment.

After this question has been thoroughly worked out, which may require six months or a year it is the intention of the New Cornelia to put up a flotation plant of much greater capacity.

She—Oh, Carl, there was once a time when you used to lovingly stroke my chin. You don't do it any more.
He—Yes; but that was when you had only one.—Detroit News.

MINE TAXATION TO BE DISCUSSED

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 13.—Mine owners and mining engineers from every section of the country will present opinions to government representatives on the taxation of mines at the meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers which will be in session here during the week of September 22nd.

Mine taxation at present ranks with the subjects of most pressing importance to the mining world. At their meeting the mining engineers and government officials will discuss methods of determining mine valuations with a view to establishing tax laws for the mines which will take into account the wasting assets of the mining industry.

The meeting is being held at the request of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue who will be represented by Dr. L. C. Graton of the Valuation Section of the Bureau.

In addition to this matter, the mining engineers will hold important discussions on coal supply and on pyrometry in which several new methods for the measurement of high temperatures will be presented for the first time.

This meeting of the American Institute which is its 120th will include trips of inspection to the Gary Steel Plant, the La Salle District, the coal fields of Franklin and Macoupin Counties, the industrial activities of North Chicago and Milwaukee, the refineries of East Chicago and Whiting and nearly every kind of metallurgical and manufacturing industry in Chicago.

The officers of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers are as follows: Horace V. Winchell, President; Albert R. Ledoux, First Vice-President; George D. Barron, Treasurer; Bradley Stoughton, Secretary.

MINING IN TEXAS IN 1919.

During the first six months of 1919 the Presidio mine, at Shafter, Tex., and other properties in Western Texas have been producing at the rate of 590,000 ounces of silver a year.

WANT ADS

WANTED—to rent a furnished house. See Edith Buckner. tf.

MRS. J. T. MARTIN will form a music class at her home on Sept. 22. Scholars will apply for enrollment.

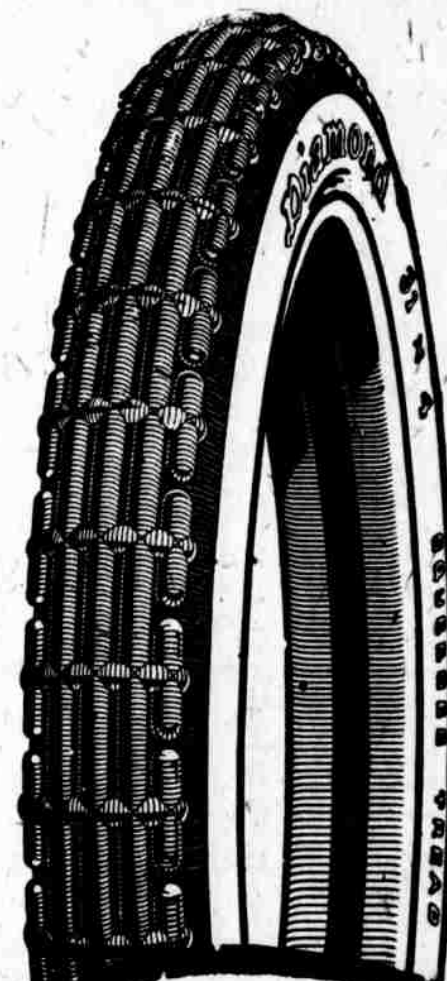
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