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DEPARTMENT AGENTS OPERATE IN FLORIDA

Secret Service Men Libel Immense Stores of Hoarded Goods in Tampa.

MANY FIRMS INVOLVED

Millions of Eggs and Hundreds of Thousands of Tins of Canned Goods, Held for Advance, Have Been Taken Over

Tampa, Fla., Aug. 13.—More than a million eggs, hundreds of thousands of tons of canned goods and about 30,000 pounds of sugar figured in a seizure of foodstuffs here today by department of justice agents operating under Federal District Attorney H. S. Phillips. Six wholesale concerns were served with papers libeling huge stocks of goods, the charge being that the goods so libeled are being held for an advance in prices.

Goods libeled and the firms involved are:

Crenshaw Brothers Produce company, 4,000 cases of eggs; Joe Garcia, 41,450 pounds of salt, 3,240 cans of peas, 58,536 cans of tomatoes, 36,200 pounds of rice and 27,650 pounds of sugar; Charles H. Moorehouse, 1,800 pounds of oatmeal, 24,000 cans of peas, 4,000 cans of baking powder, 22,800 cans of corn, 447,648 cans of tomatoes, 36,000 cans of tomato pulp, 20,580 pounds of flour and 7,000 pounds of tea.

Swift & Company, 29,568 cans of beans, 4,800 cans of salmon, 14,400 cans of corn, 20,208 cans of peas and 31,224 cans of tomatoes; Jose Suarez, 30,000 pounds of salt, 14,400 cans of tomato pulp, 1,080 cans of beans and 1,752 cans of peas; Reina Brothers, 12,000 cans tomato pulp, 720 cans of tomatoes and 3,000 pounds of rice.

In each instance the libel filed states that the food is illegally held from the market for the purpose of unreasonably increasing the price of the goods.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 13.—With the seizure today of over a million eggs held in cold storage by Morris & Company, Chicago packers, the war on hoarders and profiteers had begun. Motion for condemnation and sale of confiscated eggs will be made in federal court on September 12. The writ of attachment issued charges that the eggs are held for the purpose of unlawfully and unreasonably increasing the price thereof in violation of the Lever food control act.

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 13.—Two food concerns and six individual dealers were indicted by the county grand jury here today as the first result of an investigation that has been under way nearly two weeks.

The indictments charge membership in an unlawful trust to control trade and prevent competition. The grand jury investigation is being continued and according to the county prosecuting attorney other indictments are expected.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—Government prosecutors, who are waging war on food hoarders and profiteers, will go before federal district judges here soon and seek writs to seize surplus food supplies in cold storage and sell them to the public.

Thousands of tons of meats, poultry, fish, butter and eggs are held in warehouses by brokers and speculators here, according to reports by the United States bureau of markets.

Trenton, N. J., Aug. 13.—Appointment of price fixing committees in each of the 21 counties of New Jersey in accordance with the suggestion of Attorney General Palmer was directed today by United States District Attorney Bodin in telegrams sent to the county food administrators.

CRASH INTO ENGINE COSTS EIGHT LIVES

Parkersburg, W. Va., Aug. 14.—The death list, as a result of the crash between a street car, crowded with women and children, en route to a picnic, and a railroad engine at Farmanco, two miles north of here, today, was increased to eight tonight when five persons succumbed to their injuries in hospitals.

SHOPMEN CONVENTION CALLS OFF THE STRIKE

Owing to Accumulation of Freight Limited Embargoes to Be Continued.

Cleveland, Aug. 12.—Chairmen of 3,300 locals of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, representing 117,000 firemen and hostlers in the United States and Canada, convened here today to frame a demand for increased wages to be presented to the railroads.

The day was devoted to organizing the convention, general discussion and the appointment of a committee of 12 to prepare a wage proposition which will be presented to the delegates possibly tomorrow afternoon or Thursday morning. A substantial wage increase and certain fundamental rules of employment to be applied to all railroads will be asked.

Reports today to the railway employers' department of the American Federation of Labor indicated that the strike of shopmen was "cleaned up" except in Chicago and a few points in New England, where it was expected the men would return to work before the end of the week. Conferences with Director General Hines over the men's wage demands will start immediately after all the men have returned to work.

CUMMINGS FINDS PEOPLE FOR WILSON

Chairman of National Democratic Committee Speaks to Big Crowd at Asheville.

Asheville, N. C., Aug. 12.—Speak here tonight to one of the largest crowds that ever attended a political speech in this city, Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the National Democratic committee, declared that after travelling 12,000 miles, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, he had found sentiment stronger for the league of nations and President Wilson.

Mr. Cummings was introduced to the audience by Mayor Gallatin Roberts. "No man and no party intentionally placing obstacles in the way of a league of nations will survive long enough to outlive the memory of such an offense against humanity and civilization," said the speaker. The people are overwhelmingly for the league everywhere he went.

Democratic leaders from all over the Tenth Congressional District were here to hear the party chairman in what many declared the greatest political address ever heard here.

DIAL IS SEEKING FISH FOR PONDS

Junior Senator in Correspondence With Federal Bureau Regarding Stock for Next Spring.

Washington, Aug. 12.—Senator Dial has been in correspondence with the federal bureau of fisheries in regard to deliveries next spring of fish fry for stocking of ponds on South Carolina farms. There are more of such ponds than might be supposed and many of them furnish not only sport but considerable additions to the family table.

Distributions of stock by the bureau of fisheries cars are made in the spring and the late summer and autumn, but applications filed after June are not filled until the subsequent spring. Blank applications may be obtained from the commissioner of fisheries, Washington, and when the data required have been filled in, these must be transmitted, for indorsement, through a senator or representative in congress.

WOULD PROSECUTE CHAIN STORE MAN

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 12.—John B. Wilson, agent of the Department of Justice here, announced that he would recommend federal prosecution of George B. Hevener, of Baltimore, secretary of the C. D. Kenny company, chain of stores, on the charge that Hevener ordered the sale of sugar at a higher figure than government regulation.

R. K. Gardener, local manager of the Kenny company, testified at a food price inquiry here yesterday that Hevener had ordered him to sell sugar at \$10.20 per 100 pounds, while government regulations prohibit sales at wholesale for more than \$9.61 per 100.

THE NEXT CROP WILL BE A BUSINESS CROP

Only Such Acreage Will Be Planted as Will Bring Profitable Price.

TO HOLD BIG MEETING

American Cotton Association Now Securing Information to Be Discussed at Meeting in the Early Fall.

Columbia, S. C., Aug. 14.—The following has been given out by the American Cotton association:

The American Cotton association, through confidential representatives has been securing inside information from the cotton concerning centers of the North and from the New York exchange for quite some length of time. Much of the information secured is very valuable.

A mammoth mass meeting will be held in the early fall for the purpose of discussing and recommending a minimum price for the growing crop based on supply and demand and the comparison in prices of manufactured products and other commodities, also the matter of acreage for the coming year will be seriously considered. The farms will be operated upon a business basis and only such acreage will be planted as, based on supply and demand, will bring a profitable price. Under no condition will the acreage be planted to establish surplus to bear down prices.

After this meeting, confidential information secured as stated above, will receive the most careful consideration and attention of special committees, and in all probability a request for a special investigation of the flagrant manipulation which has been practiced in the cotton market will be made. As a result of this manipulation the South has suffered the loss of millions.

One of the leading bankers from the wealthy western section recently stated:

"We would be delighted to loan money on your cotton, as money is extremely easy with us, but it is an absolute fool for the man who has the prices being flagrantly manipulated at his own peril, so that cotton is really considered as a gambling product, and in our section of the West it is considered unsafe for handling by the banks. You should do something to stabilize your prices."

Dry goods today, since the break in the price of cotton, are still advancing, it being impossible to have orders filled without delay. It has just been stated that it will be necessary to allot men's underwear on account of the great shortage of the manufactured product. There will be a record-breaking demand for cotton.

As soon as the peace treaty has been confirmed, the manipulator will be denied one implement that he has used to beat down prices and caused the South fabulous losses, as Germany cannot buy a pound of cotton even with gold, until the peace treaty has been confirmed.

Experts who are working on the cost of production of the growing crop find that it will be the most expensive crop ever grown. One leading expert from the South, Mr. Morrison, of New Orleans, a recognized authority, rendered a detailed statement including every item showing the cost of production of the growing crop, basis middling, of 47½ cents per pound. With the present shortage of labor, the percentage of off-grade cotton from the growing crop will probably break all previous records, as there is certain to be a great deal of trouble and delay in gathering the growing crop, which will be bound to cause off and low grade cotton.

Much of the information in possession of the association shows that the laws of supply and demand are absolutely ignored. The inflation of the currency which is as unchangeable as the law of gravitation, has no bearing. However, these laws cannot continue to be violated, they will assert themselves eventually. In addition to this, watch the condition of the growing cotton crop from August 15th to September 1st, and you will see record-breaking deterioration

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WANT HALF MILLION TO PROBE HIGH COST

Recommendations Are Submitted for Reducing Prices of All Necessaries.

FUNDS ARE INSUFFICIENT

Bills Are Also Pending for Investigation of Sugar and Shoe Industries—Much Attention is Given.

Washington, Aug. 12.—An appropriation of \$500,000 for investigation of the increased cost of living by the federal trade commission was asked of congress today by Acting Chairman Murdock of the commission in a letter to Speaker Gillett. Funds for the commission already authorized are insufficient to conduct the proposed inquiry, the letter said.

Chairman Murdock, who also is a member of the sub-committee named by Attorney General Palmer to submit recommendations for reducing living costs, set forth in his letter that the commission proposed to conduct further investigations as to the production, storage and distribution of foodstuffs with the aim of arriving at figures on the real cost, wholesale and retail prices.

So far as known, the president has not directed any additional investigations but bills are pending in the house for inquiries into the sugar and shoe industries.

The communication from the trade commission chairman reached the house at the close of a day during which both branches of congress gave much attention to cost of living problems. Appropriations of \$175,000 was asked for the secret service by Secretary Glass, who asked that in authorizing the appropriation a clause be inserted to permit the use of the service operatives in running down food hoarders and profiteers.

Hoarding and profiteering were the subject of two measures presented in the house. A bill by Representative Gard, democrat, Ohio, would provide \$10,000 fine or five years' imprisonment for hoarding, profiteering or monopolizing the production of foodstuffs, fuel or clothing. Representative Goodyknottz, republican, West Virginia, presented a resolution to direct the judiciary committee to frame a legislation to eliminate hoarding and to reduce the amount of currency in circulation. Mr. Goodyknottz also introduced a resolution requesting the secretary of war to sell the surplus stocks of automobiles and motor trucks.

Representative Kellar, independent republican, introduced a bill to authorize creation of a national board of conservation headed by the president and composed of members of the cabinet, five senators and five representatives which would have power to regulate wholesale and retail prices of food and clothing.

Representative Fess, republican, Ohio, discussing the high cost of living in the house declared that government wastefulness during the war and at present in continuing many war created agencies largely was responsible for the existing situation. Senator McKellar, democrat, Tennessee, appearing before the house agriculture committee, predicted organized opposition on the part of the packing industry to any legislation to regulate cold storage facilities.

The cost of living question will be brought up again tomorrow on the floor of the senate with prepared addresses by Senator McKellar and Senator Reed, democrat, Missouri. The two addresses probably will give rise to considerable debate.

LOWER PRICES SECURED BY CHICAGO CONSUMERS

Chicago, Aug. 12.—Concerted attacks by federal, state and municipal officials on the high cost of living resulted today in lower prices of many articles of produce to Chicago consumers. It was the first definite benefit to result from the attacks on food profiteers and hoarders. With the decrease in wholesale and retail price, there came a substantial increase in receipts of various articles of food. It was said that producers were rushing shipments to the Chicago market in fear of further reduction of prices in

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BOARD'S ANSWER FAILS TO SATISFY

Byrnes Says Information Furnished is Not Sufficient on Cotton Conditions—To Introduce Bill.

Washington, Aug. 12.—In the interest of all parties concerned, but more especially to determine whether cotton manufacturers are earning more from the spinning of raw cotton than is justified under present high price conditions Representative Byrnes of South Carolina, who a day or two ago offered a resolution calling upon the federal trade commission for data on this line, today said that the information given him while satisfactory as far as it went, was not sufficient.

It is shown in the figures supplied him what it costs the cotton mills to make the different kinds of cloth, but there is nothing to show what they get from it, and it is the net return, after other expenses are met, that Mr. Byrnes wishes to secure. "I am going to introduce a bill," Mr. Byrnes said today, "calling for the enactment of a law which will compel the federal trade commission to publish quarterly an itemized statement from all cotton mills. This will show what the mills paid for the raw cotton, what they paid their selling agent, the cost of mill help, and, finally, what they received for the finished goods. It will show in detail, how much the mill help received, and what others received, and from this will be determined whether there is fair play all around or whether under present circumstances warrant, whether it is the middleman or some one who is profiteering."

PUBLIC UTILITIES POWER PLANTS CLOSE DOWN

Scores of Carolina Cities Affected by Strike of Many Electrical Workers.

Charlotte, N. C., Aug. 12.—Electrical workers connected with the Southern Public Utilities company, supplying electric light and power for scores of cities in the two Carolinas and hundreds of manufacturing plants, went on strike at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon. Power was immediately shut off. The company announced that it would seek to restore service as soon as officials of the company could get to the transformers and gas stations.

The walk-out will also affect the signal system of the Southern railway between Greenville, S. C., and Greensboro, N. C., and the service of the Western Union Telegraph company, whose power is secured from the lines of this company.

As soon as the strike was announced one of the resident engineers of the Southern Power company went to one of the local transformer stations and prepared to start the current again, when 25 of the strikers threatened bodily injury. Police reserves stopped the disorder and the company announced that service will be restored when the officers of the company, many of whom came up from the ranks, will take charge of the operation of the lines.

SOLDIERS' BONUS DECLARED PALTRY

Representative Pou Appeals for Non-Partisan Action in the Matter.

Washington, Aug. 12.—Declaring the \$60 war bonus paid to discharged soldiers and sailors was "paltry" as compared with \$240 paid war workers, Representative Pou, democrat, of North Carolina, in the house today asked for non-partisan consideration of Republicans and Democrats in dealing with additional bonuses.

"When we deal with the soldiers," he said, "I hope there will be no political differences. I hope there will be no sparring for political advantages. The additional bonus should be large enough to give all discharged soldiers and sailors a good start as civilians."

"The watch dogs" of the treasury, Mr. Pou stated, would be "horrified" at the amount of the appropriation. Justice should be done these men at any cost, he said.

FIRST PROFITEER IS CONVICTED AND FINED

Grocer Pays \$500 for Selling Sugar at Fifteen Cents a Pound in Binghamton.

WILL SETTLE THE TROUBLE

Attorney General Palmer Says a Few Such Convictions in Each State Will Put a Stop to the Practice.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Important new developments in the governments fight to reduce the high cost of living came today.

One of the most interesting was the announcement by Attorney General Palmer that the first federal conviction for profiteering had been obtained. District Attorney Lucey telegraphed from Binghamton, N. Y., that a retail grocer had been fined \$500 for selling sugar at 15 cents a pound. No details were given and the law under which the case was brought was not known here.

"A few good cases of profiteering in each state will settle that trouble," Mr. Palmer remarked.

To Include Clothing.

In order to bring to book persons guilty of raising prices exorbitantly or hoarding food to advance prices, Mr. Palmer submitted to the agricultural committees of congress the draft of an amendment to the food control act extending its provisions to clothing and containers of foods and feeds, and providing a penalty of \$5,000 fine or two years' imprisonment or both for violation of the law.

Chairman Haughen of the house committee announced that the amendment would be considered immediately by a subcommittee and that a report might be made tomorrow.

It is Mr. Palmer's idea that this amendment should be considered before taking up other amendment suggested by President Wilson to extend the effective life of the food control act beyond the war period.

The Sines of War.

Three cabinet officials asked special appropriations from congress for the campaign against inflated prices. Secretary Redfield requested \$410,000 for the work of the bureau of standards in assuring full weight and measures and of the bureau of fisheries in introducing new fish foods. Secretary Wilson asked \$475,000 for the employment of special agents and others and Mr. Palmer requested \$1,000,000 for the bureau of investigations and for the expenses of state food administrators assisting the Department of Justice. Another \$200,000 was asked for anti-trust suits, especially that against the big five packing companies. The attorney general also wants \$300,000 for other work of the department, not directly connected with the living problem, such as the enforcement of war time prohibition, prosecution of appeals and hiring of special assistants.

"Cut Red Tape."

Asked today if he had any reports indicating sufficient food held in storage to affect prices materially if released, Mr. Palmer revealed that a number of governors had appealed to him to cut "red tape" in forcing on the market "amazing quantities" of foodstuffs now in storage. In some cases, it was said, the food has been held longer than permitted by state laws, but technicalities regarding interstate commerce have prevented the governors from undertaking seizure or prosecution. Mr. Palmer ordered all district attorneys to assist the governors.

Reports of excessive stocks of food held in storage have been received from at least six states, the attorney general said. He declined to be more specific, but it was indicated that New Jersey was one of the states.

Storage Conditions.

Storage conditions are also engaging the attention of the state food administrators, several of whom have asked if they were authorized to publish the facts where it appeared that more food was being held from the public than the reasonable requirements of a dealer demanded.

"I told them to go right ahead and to use the names," Mr. Palmer announced decisively. "I am interested in getting as much information on

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