

U. S. FOOD ADM. SUGGESTS REMEDIES

Favors Provisions Contained in Kenyon Bill.

Herbert C. Hoover, in a letter dated September 11, 1918, and addressed to the President of the United States, made the following statements about the big meat packers. Mr. Hoover's letter has a direct bearing upon the high cost of living and the Kenyon Bill now before Congress. No one has accused Mr. Hoover of being hostile to big business, or partisan.

"Dear Mr. President: In response to your request, I beg to set out my observations on the recommendations of the Federal Trade Commission, with regard to the five large packing firms.

"I scarcely need to repeat the views that I expressed to you nearly a year ago, that there is here a growing and dangerous domination of the handling of the Nation's foodstuffs. . . . The provision of a larger part of the stockyards, and car services, has naturally fallen in considerable degree to the larger and more wealthy packers who have used their advantages, as in effect a special and largely exclusive railway privilege with which to build up their own business.

"Through this practical railway privilege, the numerous branch establishments, the elimination of wholesale intermediaries, and with large banking alliances, this group have found themselves in position not only to dominate the distribution of interstate animal products, but to successfully invade many other lines of food and other commodity preparation and distribution. . . . They now vend scores of different articles, and this constantly increasing list now approaches a dominating proportion of the inter-State business in several different food lines. . . .

"These businesses have been economically efficient in their period of competitive upgrowth, but, as time goes on, this efficiency cannot fail to diminish and, like all monopolies, begin to defend itself by repression rather than by efficiency. The worst social result of this whole growth in domination of trades is the undermining of the initiative and the equal opportunity of our people and the tyranny which necessarily follows in the commercial world. . . .

"As to car service, I am in full agreement (with the Federal Trade Commission), and may recall to you that soon after its installation we recommended that the railway administration should take over and operate all private carlines in food products. . . .

"As to the stock yards, I am in agreement that they should be entirely dissociated from the control of the packers. . . .

"As these few firms are the final reservoir for all classes of animals, when the few yards where they buy become erratically oversupplied with more animals than their absolute requirements, it remains in their hands to fluctuate prices by mere refusal to buy. . . . which reacts to discourage production. . . .

"It appears to me at least worth thought as to whether these aggregations should not be confined to more narrow and limited activities, say those involved in the slaughter of animals, the preparation and marketing of the products therefrom alone. Such a course might solve the branch house problem, and it is not an unknown legislative control, as witness that of

TAX COMMISSION SAVES THOUSANDS

New Assessment Figures on Merchant's Stocks Sent to County Auditors.

Columbia, Aug. 25.—The South Carolina tax commission has recently sent to various counties of the State statements of the new assessments on the stocks of mercantile establishments, ascertained from the recent stock statements from the merchants or furnished by them when subpoenaed to appear before the tax commission. The figures show that the tax commission has saved the State many thousands of dollars, and as a result of the work of the commission already this year the tax levy has been reduced.

As an illustration of the amount of money saved to the State and counties from the equalized assessments, the assessments on property of merchants in Greenville County alone are greater by a half million dollars than they were before the tax commission began its recent equalization work with the merchants. This means a saving of \$4,500 in taxes in Greenville county, and when the figures are tallied for all the counties and including the mercantile stocks and also automobiles, on which the tax commission has been at work lately, the saving to the State will run far into the thousands. All of the statements have not been sent to the county auditors yet and the tax commission has as yet no way of knowing to what the total increase of assessments amounts, though the tabulation for Greenville, made by Auditor Gullick of that county, gives an indication of the results of the commission's efforts.

A statement from the auditor of Greenville county shows many instances of figures returned by merchants being doubled, tripled and in a few cases, raised to ten and twenty times as much. Some merchants and business firms who made no returns in the belief that they did not come under the law have figures amounting to several thousands of dollars against their names.

One merchant returned his business at \$500, and this figure has been raised to \$12,000. Another returned his at \$1,000 and will find that he must pay taxes on \$10,000. A third gave the figures \$8,000 which the tax commission has raised to \$68,000. Smaller increases than these are very numerous among the list of Greenville merchants.

The tax commission fixed property valuation on a basis of 42 per cent of the total value returned in the inventories which the merchants were required to fill out.

SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN.

School days at Thornwell are almost here again. On next Monday morning the 300 boys and girls of the institution will gather up their school books and enter upon another year's work. The past school year was a most successful one and the outlook points to a still better one the coming year. The various school buildings have been put in excellent condition and everything is now in readiness for the opening on next Monday morning.

"The Natural Law" was given first rank among shows seen in Wellsburg in recent years. A capacity house greeted the players. The piece throughout was full of thrills and climaxes that made a lasting impression upon the audience.—Wellsburg (W. Va.), Herald.

banks, railways and insurance companies. . . .

"In summation, I believe that the ultimate solution of this problem is to be obtained by assuring equal opportunity in transportation, equal opportunity in the location of manufacturing sites and of terminal sites, and the limitation of the activities of these businesses. . . .

"Yours faithfully,

"Herbert Hoover."

Obviously, Mr. Hoover would favor the Kenyon Bill, as his recommendations are contained in that bill.

LEVER FOOD ACT TO INCLUDE CLOTHING

Amendment of Food Control Bill Adopted by House Without Much Opposition, \$5,000 Fine or Two Years for Profiteering.

Washington, Aug. 23.—Without amendment and with practically no opposition, the House late today voted to amend the Lever Food Control Act to extend its provisions to include clothing, containers of food, feed or fertilizers, fuel oil and implements used in production of necessities, and to penalize profiteers by a \$5,000 fine or two years' imprisonment.

Proposals to make the act apply to profiteering in house and room rents, adopted by the House in committee of the whole, were stricken out in the final vote.

Efforts were made by both Republicans and Democrats to have the amendment's provisions cover necessities other than those included in the amendment as reported by the agriculture committee. Inclusive of kerosene and gasoline was proposed by Representative Strong, Republican, Kansas, who said the price of these products had increased 300 per cent in the last two years, but his amendment was rejected by a close vote while that of Representative Newton, Republican, Minnesota, to include raw cotton was eliminated on a point of order by Representative Blanton, Democrat, Texas.

Attempts to bring farmers and farm organizations within the jurisdiction of the amendment also were blocked.

Recommendations of Attorney General Palmer to include retailers doing a business of less than \$100,000 under the profiteering section so that the department of justice might "go after the little ones" were included in the message as passed.

Five hours of general debate preceded passage of the measure the first legislative step in carrying out the recommendations of President Wilson in his recent address to congress on the high cost of living. The Hutchinson cold-storage bill, modeled on the New Jersey act recommended to congress by the President as worthy of patterning after, will be reported to the House next week.

Debate today consisted largely in attacks and defense of the administration, Republicans asserting that the Democrats "with masterly inactivity" had avoided any discussion or remedies for the high cost of living and Democratic members charging that Republicans had been busy playing politics and were not unmindful of coming elections.

Representative Rodenburg, Republican, said that "the President's mind for the last nine months has been completely absorbed by the idea of the league of nations. If there was a famine in China, a flood in the Mississippi valley, an earthquake in Porto Rico, a volcanic eruption in Central America, or an epidemic of spinal meningitis in New-York city, the President by a process of reasoning that satisfies himself at least, has convinced himself that the sole contributing cause was the failure of the league of nations."

Representative Heflin, Democrat, Alabama, charged that Republican opposition to the league of nations had become so pronounced that the chaplain of the House "was not permitted to pray for acceptance of the league of nations." He said the chaplain had offered such a prayer one morning "and since then his lips have been sealed by a high member of the Republican party."

Indication of the close interest with which President Wilson is following every move in the fight on high prices was given today in a lengthy conference which he held with Attorney General Palmer and Director General Hines. The conference was arranged by Mr. Palmer, who declined to discuss what had been under consideration.

Mr. Palmer also was in conference today with the senate agriculture subcommittee considering amendments to the food control act. The committee wanted to have the amendments define "reasonable prices and just profits," but no agreement was reached. It was considered likely that this phase of the congressional share in curbing profiteers was put before President Wilson by the attorney general.

Mr. Palmer today telegraphed Governor Smith, of New York, that Special Assistant United States District Attorney Henry A. Guilar would be assigned to investigate the New York milk situation.

LOVETT DISCUSSES RAILROAD PROBLEM

Washington, Aug. 22.—Private operation of railroads cannot be restored at existing rates, Robert S. Lovett, president of the Union Pacific Railroad today told the House Interstate Commerce Committee during a discussion, in which he contended the railroad problem "is solely a question of railroad credit."

Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pacific, another witness, urged early adoption of a national transportation policy, declaring delay only tended to make "all classes uncertain and unsettled." In adoption of the transportation policy he thought congress should observe four principles, as follows:

Government regulatory machinery to encourage the present transportation system so that rates will pay all costs, including new capital needed for expansion of facilities; abandonment of credit methods of adjusting wages and working disputes, with substitution of "a sane method of deciding these questions," including abolishment of strikes, modification of the Sherman law to permit consolidation and making of federal authority supreme in regulating rates, securities and accounts. Railroads should have the right to initiate rates. Mr. Elliott argued, adding that the interstate commerce commission should have the right of suspension and review.

Both Judge Lovett and Mr. Elliott urged the adoption of the reorganization plan of the Association of Railway Executives, including provision for a Federal Transportation Board, representing the public, to aid the interstate commerce commission. Referring to the Plumb or organized labor plan for tri-partite control of the railroads, Judge Lovett said:

"It is rather a bold move of the American Bolsheviks to take first for Russification the one industry that affects all the people."

Railroad employees, he added, do not understand the Plumb proposal but when they do "they will repudiate and refuse to support it."

"If the railroads were turned back to their owners today under existing conditions," declared Judge Lovett, "it is not too much to say that half of the roads would go into bankruptcy and the dividend paying roads would have to reduce their dividend payments."

Wage increases without proportionate increase of rates would be disastrous, Judge Lovett asserted, adding: "It is utterly impossible to consider the private owners taking over the railroads and operating them at the present rates." He offered two solutions: One to raise the rates; the other, pay the loss from the federal treasury.

Under private operation, Judge Lovett said in reply to Representative Rayburn, Democrat, Texas, the railroads could not be operated "any more economically than the government has."

In arguing that credit was the sole question involved in the railroad problem, Judge Lovett said the government did not propose to guarantee interest on dividends, but that it was the duty of congress to make rail investment so attractive as to induce private investments that will secure the necessary development needed by the public.

Pointing out the need of additional railroad facilities, the Union Pacific resident said:

"If the government itself is not going to furnish the money then we must look to private individuals for it; and not only regard for their constitutional rights, but good policy and common honesty demand that they should be encouraged and protected, instead of made the victims of every half baked theory that is unthinkably and unmoral ignorance can suggest."

Government ownership was opposed by Mr. Elliott, but Judge Lovett assumed that the committee would not consider the solution of the rail problem.

READY FOR BUSINESS.

The Adair-McMillan Clothing Company have opened their doors and are now ready for business. While their stock is not complete at the present, they hope to have everything in shape by September 10th. This concern is occupying the store room formerly occupied by Miss Lease next door to Seafie's Book Store, and will carry a complete line of gent's furnishings.

SHIPPED ARMS IN TRUNKS TO MEXICO

Ten Trunks Containing Ammunition Shipped from New York, Detectives Find.

New York, Aug. 25.—Ten trunks containing arms and ammunition were shipped from this city to Mexico on the steamship Morro Castle, which sailed last Friday for Havana, Progresso and Vera Cruz, according to information obtained today by detectives attached to the bomb squad. The trunks were shipped from a Broadway hotel. The department of justice and navy department have been notified and it is expected gunboats will be sought to search the steamer.

The bomb squad detectives, who have been investigating reports of secret ammunition stores here, first learned of the shipment through discovery of a bill of sale showing 17,000 rounds of ammunition and 350 pounds of "talcum" powder had been purchased on August 16 from a large sporting goods house in this city and consigned to an address which the detectives found to be fictitious.

They discovered today that the explosives had actually found their way to a Broadway hotel, where two men, believed to have been agents of the Mexican government, were registered until Friday.

The detectives believe they took passage on the Morro Castle with the ten trunks of ammunition.

After the hotel had been searched for additional stores of explosives, the detectives raided an up-town restaurant, where they found several more trunks, believed to contain ammunition. A package labeled "talcum powder" and several rifles also were seized at the restaurant.

Keywest, Fla., Aug. 25.—Two local negroes were taken into custody here today for investigation of their alleged attempts to buy 4,000 rounds of ammunition from Keywest dealers. Officers say they believe the ammunition was intended to be smuggled into Mexico via Cuba and that the negroes confessed that a strange Spaniard had employed them to do the buying. The men held are William and Leonard Kemp, brothers.

Reunion of Veterans.

For about 20 years the survivors of Company F, Fourteenth Regiment, S. C. Volunteers, have been gathering annually on the 19th of August, in a reunion of the remnant of a splendid company of a noted fighting brigade—McGowan's; and too, they were a part of Jackson's famous "foot cavalry". Mr. Jim Dillard used to take a leading part in planning and working for the annual meeting. He is gone. There are not many left, some say 16 of the old company are alive; part of these are living in distant homes. Some are feeble in body only. Four of Co. F were present and about eleven from other commands of the Confederate States army. Will F. Wright has been the secretary for several years. His father fought with Co. F. Rev. C. D. Boyd preached a sermon then; then dinner was served and it was a bountiful one. The meeting was called to order and roll called. Those present were: Geo. M. Hanna, J. Wilson Blakeley, John M. Hopkins and H. P. Blakeley. Other old soldiers present were: M. M. Cunningham, R. P. Adair, J. D. Mock, T. F. Milam, Isaac W. Adair, W. D. Boyd, M. M. Fleming, W. J. Donnan, G. F. Waldrop, J. W. Lanford, Nesbitt Brown. The death of John B. Smith was noted. He died within the past year in Oklahoma. Remarks were offered by Geo. M. Hanna. Mr. Hanna made an interesting talk giving his experiences both in camp and in battle. He gave dates and told where many were killed or were wounded. His voice and manner showed emotion as he progressed in the recital.

At one of these reunions a few years ago it was agreed to designate the oldest son of a deceased soldier as an honorary member. Four or five of the last named were present. I have heard different members of the company express the wish that their descendants keep the reunion up even after they, the actors in the awful conflict, shall have passed away. Since the first reunion was held some 18 years ago, I can recall the deaths of these: Warren Blakeley, Bill Machray, Jas. P. Dillard, Ren Anderson, "Hug" Anderson, John Clark, Dr. W. A. Shands, Bill McKelvey, Capt. J. P. Sloan, Oliver Templeton, John Gore, Bill Copeland, Bluford Henry, Joe Todd. It is the hope of the writer that

MAKING NEW MOVE IN VAUGHAN CASE

Solicitor to Ask Court For Re-Sentence.

Greenville, Aug. 23.—Solicitor J. Robert Martin today served notice of a motion for a court order for the purpose of resentencing Thurston V. Vaughan, former superintendent of the South Carolina Odd Fellows' Orphanage, near Greenville, who confessed to having wronged several young girls, inmates of the institution, and who was sentenced to death on a charge of statutory rape in 1912. The solicitor at general sessions court here next Wednesday, or as soon thereafter as counsel for the defendant can be heard, will move for an order remanding Vaughan from the State Hospital for Insane, at Columbia, to the Greenville county jail, where another examination of his mental condition can be held, and if he is found sane the court will be asked to impose the death penalty in compliance with the judgment of the court heretofore rendered. The order of several years ago committing Vaughan to the asylum provided that should he regain his normal mental condition he would be subject to resentence.

Another chapter will be written in the famous Vaughan case of many sensational developments, when the defendant will be required to show cause why he should not be resentenced to die for the crimes which he confessed to have committed while superintendent of the Odd Fellows Orphanage near this city. Vaughan's arrest, his escape from jail and his subsequent arrest in Baltimore and his trial and dramatic confession were features which held state-wide interest in the early stages of the case. He was represented at the trial by McCullough, Martin and Blythe and Proctor A. Bonham, then solicitor, was assisted by J. J. McSwain, representing the orphanage, of which he was a director, in prosecution. After the first day of the trial, at which time several young girls testified as to Vaughan's conduct, the defendant withdrew his plea of "not guilty" and entered a plea of "guilty" and laid himself to the mercy of the court. His confession and appeal for mercy was one of the most dramatic utterances ever heard in the court house.

The court sentenced Vaughan to be hanged, and in the meantime the form of death punishment in this state was changed to an electrocution. The case was appealed to the state supreme court and subsequently to the United States supreme court and the judgment of the circuit court was sustained.

In the months that followed Vaughan is alleged to have lost his mind and presented the appearance of a physical and mental wreck when brought back to Greenville to resentence. Upon the examination into Vaughan's mental condition by experts and their support that he was insane, Solicitor Bonham consented to an order of the court staying the death sentence, and Vaughan was committed to the asylum.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE.

The D. L. Boozer property is to be sold at public auction on next Monday, September 1st. This land, which is to be sub-divided, is situated on the proposed Piedmont Highway between Greenville and Columbia, and is considered an ideal piece of property. The land has just recently been purchased by A. J. Bethea, of Columbia. The sale is to be conducted by the Atlantic Coast Realty Co., of Petersburg, Va., and Greenville, N. C., a well known and well established company. Free lunch and a brass band will be had for those attending the sale. Your attention is directed to their advertisement on page eight.

Mrs. J. W. Lake on Tuesday afternoon entertained in honor of Miss Martha Belle Harris. After playing several games of spirited rook, a delicious ice course was served.

he can meet all the survivors of the company, as well as their friends on the 19th of next August.