

DEFINITE STEPS AGAINST PRICES

Swift Action on High Cost of Living. Interest in Meeting.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Definite steps toward reducing the high cost of living are expected this week.

While all government departments are working toward the end of alleviating unrest by restoring a normal level of prices, interest centers in the meeting Tuesday of the conference called by Attorney General Palmer to consider the best method of procedure, especially with respect to profiteering. The committee appointed by the conference, Director General Hines, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Leffingwell and Chairman Colver of the federal trade commission, have been engaged in an exchange of memoranda which will be put before the conference for recommendation to President Wilson, who is following all steps closely.

The presence of Julius Barnes, director of the United States Grain Corporation, at the meeting Tuesday will give expert counsel to the cabinet members and other officials on the grain situation. Consideration of a plan to sell wheat in a free market, the government absorbing the difference between the market price and the guaranteed price, is believed certain.

There are indications that the attorney general is paying special attention to cases of profiteering. He

has at his disposal a great volume of information collected by the federal trade commission showing production costs in scores of industries. While there is no law by which profiteering may be punished directly, Mr. Palmer has said that there is a great deal of "good law" on the statute books, and it is believed he will find a way to punish any cases where there are evidences of extortion.

The average citizen is the man in whose behalf the profiteering investigation will be pushed, despite the fact that it was the new demands of the railroad labor unions which precipitated. Several officials have expressed sympathy with the salaried men who furnish backing of a powerful organization.

The cost of living situation, it was learned today, will be one of the chief topics to be discussed at Tuesday's cabinet meeting. The question of reducing living expenditures was brought up at last week's meeting, but it is understood that President Wilson and his advisers decided to postpone efforts to reach an agreement as to definite action pending the obtaining of definite information.

When government officials resume their problem tomorrow, another factor will have entered into the problem of finding a solution to the cost of living situation—the ordering of a strike vote, returnable August 21, among the 500,000 shop employees of American railroads. Information that the shopmen were not disposed to accept President Wilson's proposal to have congress create a special body to pass on their demands and to consider them in connection with living problems, took officials by surprise. It generally was thought that the shopmen would await some action by congress before proceeding farther with their threat to strike.

QUIET IN CHICAGO AFTER RIOTING

Only Minor Disturbances Seen Now. Patrol to Continue. Sheriff Swears in Former Soldiers as Special Deputies to Replace Police.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—Aside from a few minor disturbances order prevailed today in the Chicago "black belt" where race rioting last week caused 35 deaths and injury to several hundred persons.

Adjutant General Frank S. Dickson of Illinois and Chief of Police Garrity tonight expressed satisfaction over the situation, the latter expressing the belief that danger of further general rioting was ended. The militia

and police continue to patrol the negro district.

With the exception of an attack on Capt. A. R. Wehrhelm, Fourth Reserve Militia, who was fired on and stabbed by three negroes, and the forming of a white mob in the stock yards district early this morning, no outbreak of consequence had occurred since Thursday. The captain was severely wounded but will recover.

Six hundred whites were dispersed only after a machine gun mounted on an automobile had appeared and militiamen with fixed bayonets had prepared to charge them.

While police were slowly being withdrawn from the negro district and the bars were let down for whites in that section today, the sheriff was swearing in former soldiers as special deputies and expected to have between 1,000 and 2,000 on duty in the riot zones tomorrow.

It has been definitely decided that negroes will not be re-employed at the stock yards until ill feeling between whites and blacks has subsided. The fire early yesterday which burned six blocks of homes of whites, west of the stock yards, and which many of the residents blamed upon the negroes, aggravated the feeling of bitterness.

The scores of homeless were fed today by the Red Cross and united charities and clothing distributed.

The August grand jury will be sworn in tomorrow for investigation of the riots and the fire. At least 20 witnesses have declared negroes who appeared in automobiles started the fire.

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German Constitution Is Approved.

Berlin, Aug. 1.—The German national assembly at Weimar approved the new German constitution yesterday by a vote of 261 to 75. Konstantin Fehrenbach, president of the assembly, formally declared the constitution adopted. The opposition votes came from the German national peoples, the German peoples and the independent socialist parties.

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