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**In the United States**

A conference of government officials, congressmen and railroad executives to discuss the possible necessity of continuing the guaranteed wheat price after June 1, when it expires according to present laws, has been called by Julius H. Barnes, director of the United States Grain Corporation, to meet in Washington May 19.

A picture of the sugar shortage was shown in Chicago this week by U. S. District Attorney Charles F. Clyne. Sugar dealers of that city were the guests and the feature of the exhibition was photographs showing many carloads of sugar standing in the Chicago railroad yards, sold and resold and then sold some more to pile up thousands of dollars in profits for the dealers, in violation of the Lever act.

The Skandia Hospital Association of Spokane, Washington, is planning the erection of a hospital to cost \$400,000, and may lay the foundation of the structure this fall.

The Government Bureau of Chemistry reports the termination of fifty cases brought in the Federal courts for violations of the Pure Food and Drug act. In forty-nine of the cases, the charges of the Government were sustained by the courts. The actions were chiefly for adulteration of food and feed, with a few for short weight.

Industrial court upheld. The Kansas law creating an industrial court with power to enforce arbitral awards touching the production of coal and other prime necessities, has been upheld by the lower court. The decision is to the effect that the police power of a state extends to protecting the health, morals and general welfare of its population; that the measures to secure these ends are matters for legislative determination, and that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution does not invalidate this common law public right. The principle at stake, as Judge Curran, of Kansas, is quoted, is older than Blackstone, who recognized and defended it. A social organization may protect its members against practically any action its law making power deems prejudicial to the common interest. The issue is fundamentally one of self-defense, and implies that no group or person may use a right to the destruction of the rights of others. For those in control of the fuel supply to combine to freeze their fellow citizens is to seek to establish a monopoly such as law has always forbidden. Governor Allen's act is spoken of as a novelty. In fact, it is as old as written law, and is found imbedded in primitive

The United States and South American and Oriental nations, which, as a consequence proportion of the world's stock of gold, may reasonably expect a persistent drain on their holdings of the metal until an approximate world equilibrium has again been restored, the National Bank of Commerce says. This will compel the nations so situated to readjust their credit structures within themselves. At present, the bank declares, the world situation is without precedent as a result of the war, with overturned the currency systems of Europe.

A Drop In Silks. Most reports of prices going down are met by the prices actually going up, so that very little dependence can be placed on reports, but nevertheless the announcement comes from Chicago that a general reduction in the price of cotton, woolen and silk goods within the next few weeks is predicted following announcement of a silk dealer of that city, that he had sold 3,000,000 yards of bolt silk at reductions ranging from 50 cents to \$2 a yard under

the prevailing prices. One state street merchant said that the backward spring and tightening of money would force stores and manufacturers, in many cases overstocked, to slash prices to liquidate.

The Postoffice Department has given permission for city mail carriers to wear overalls for summer uniforms, where the majority of carriers at a postoffice so desire. If a majority of the carriers petition such permission, all of them must wear the overalls, and they must be uniform, of gray denim.

Joining in the movement for the conservation of paper, the Postoffice Department is having re-stamped several million of the old two-cent post cards that they may be used under the present one-cent rate. This not only saves paper, but saves the Government the cost of printing the new cards.

In its campaign against illiteracy the Children's Bureau of the Department of Agriculture has organized a May stay-in-school drive to help show children the value of remaining in school to the end of the session. This will be followed in the fall by a back-to-school drive.

"Americans All" detachments from the army will tour the country this summer, under chautauqua auspices. Each detachment will consist of not more than one officer and eight enlisted men. They will be made up in part of men of foreign birth who, on their enlistment in the army, could not read or write, and, in some instances, speak the American language. They will give exhibitions in army drills, sing, speak and otherwise demonstrate what the army's educational system is making out of foreign-born as well as native recruits and illiterates.

With a shortage of farm labor threatening to be as acute as in 1918, Secretary of Agriculture Meredith has issued an appeal to city men, college students and others who can do so to spend their vacations working on farms, particularly as helpers in the harvest fields. Reports to the Department from practically every State indicate that the supply of hired farm labor is only about 72 per cent of normal, compared with 84 per cent normal a year ago. Secretary Meredith feels that the situation must be relieved if food production is to be brought to near normal.

Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota last week wished Godspeed to a delegation of more than 200 citizens of Minnesota, who stopped in Washington en route to a visit to their old homes in Norway. Many of the pilgrims to their former homes were personal friends of the senator, and are to visit scenes that were familiar to the senator in his childhood days. He was much touched by the visit of the delegation, and expressed the hope that they would have a safe voyage and a speedy return.

The treasury department has announced that under provisions of the Pittman act, which are mandatory, Secretary Houston had issued standing orders to the directors of the mint to buy silver at \$1 an ounce delivered at the option of the director at the assay office at New York or the mints as Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco, up to the aggregate amount of 297,000,000 ounces. Silver so purchased, the announcement set forth, must be the products both of mines situated in the United States and of reduction works so located and clear and unequivocal proof to that effect will be required.

To the memory of the soldiers and sailors who fought the battles of the United States in all wars, a great memorial amphitheater was dedicated in Arlington national cemetery near Washington on the 15th instant.

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