

GOV'T PLANS TO STRIKE AT HIGH RETAIL PRICES

DRASTIC FOOD BILL WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

COST OF LIVING HAS ADVANCED 75 PERCENT

Administration Bill Asks Full Power to Fix Prices On Whatever Products It Deems Necessary—Bill Is Aimed At Retailers.

(United Press)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The Government plans to strike directly at high retail prices as soon as Congress passes the drastic food bill soon to be introduced.

Following the bureau of labor statistics report that living is 50 to 75 per cent higher than at the beginning of the war, it is learned that the administration bill asks plenary powers to fix prices on whatever products it is deemed necessary.

The bill is aimed at retailers. The bureau's figures show the following percentages of increase in retail prices since August, 1914: Potatoes, 69; flour, 99; sugar, 29; lard, 112; bacon, 74; eggs, 88; beef, 20; butter, 48. Wholesale prices went up 79 per cent in the same period. Farm products 95 per cent, and clothing, 106 per cent. Fuel and lighting materials, are 64 per cent higher.

Steel Company Plant on Fire In Portland

(United Press.)
PORTLAND, Feb. 2.—There was no fire on the water front last night but the Northwest Steel Company's plant was damaged \$25,000 by a bursting oil pipe catching fire. Last night the hotel of the Sommerstrom Ship Building Company at St. Helens burned entailing a loss of \$50,000. It is believed is was possibly incendiary.

SOCIALIST CONVICTED ON SEDITION CHARGE

PORTLAND, Feb. 2.—(Special)—After deliberating only 45 minutes, a jury in the United States Court yesterday found Floyd Ramp, active Socialist of Roseburg, guilty on each of two counts in an indictment charging him with a violation of the espionage act. The specific charge was that of striving by seditious speech and language to incite insubordination, disloyalty and mutiny among the military forces of the United States. On the recommendation of Assistant United States Attorney Rankin, Judge Wolverton increased Ramp's bond from \$5000 to \$15,000 and remanded him to the custody of the United States Marshal until the additional bond is furnished. Ramp was granted 10 days in which to file a motion for a new trial. He will not be sentenced until after the expiration of that time. The offense of which Ramp was convicted is punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$10,000 and 20 years' imprisonment in a Federal penitentiary. The statute makes no provision for a minimum penalty.

CANADA TO HELP THE FARMERS

Exempted Men and Soldiers Will Work on the Farms.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 2.—The Government has ordered all private employment agencies to close. Exempted men, if not engaged in essential occupations will go on the farms in the Spring. Soldiers in training will also assist in seeding.

Young Men Invited to Y. M. C. A. Meeting

All young men between the ages of 18 and 24 years are cordially invited to attend the meeting for young men at the Y. M. C. A. Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The subject of the meeting is "Hitting the Trail at the Hard Hill" and the speaker is Rev. Chas. A. Phipps of the Presbyterian church.

DEALS WITH THREE MILLION WORKERS



JOHN E. DENSMORE

John E. Densmore has been named head of the new Department of Labor division which will have charge of the labor problems involved in the mobilization of 3,000,000 workers for the ship and munition plants of the country. The new division is an expansion of the old United States employment service. Densmore had been solicitor in the Labor Department.

SEC'Y BAKER WILL SOON GO TO FRANCE

WILL MAKE EFFORT TO CO-ORDINATE WORK IN ADVANCE OF GERMAN DRIVE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—It is learned that Secretary of War Baker will soon go to France to inspect the American forces and the war work in France in order to co-ordinate the work here for the increased effectiveness of the American forces participating in the expected German drive.

Y. W. C. A. IS DOING WONDERFUL WAR WORK

NATIONAL WOMAN'S ORGANIZATION HELPS GOVERNMENT

Has Been Asked to Do Special War Work at Camps, Industrial Centers and Abroad.

Everyone in these days knows of the wonderful work of the Y. M. C. A.; most everyone knows that for fifty years the Y. W. C. A. has been to the women and girls in the cities what the Y. M. C. A. has been to the men. But comparatively few realize that this woman's organization has also been commended by the Government to do a far-reaching special war work.

The hostess houses, which have already become an established factor in the camp life of this country, are to be fifty-eight in number, thirty-three of which are already in operation. These buildings have been largely built and equipped by wealthy people and practically the only future expense will be that of administration. Here a mother, wife or sister who has come to see a man in the camp hospital, or who feels that she must have one last talk with him before he sails for France, can find a place to rest, get something to eat and have a comfortable, respectable place in which to talk things over. The men also use these camp houses as club houses much as they do the Y. M. C. A. but, the chief difference being that the hostess house has a homey touch to be found nowhere else in the great olive-drab city.

Work at Industrial Centers.

Another, and perhaps more vital work of the Y. W. C. A., is that among industrial women and girls. Two million of these workers have

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Portland Soldier Is Killed In Action

(United Press)
OTTAWA, Feb. 2.—The Canadian casualty list mentions C. R. Gibbs, of Portland, land, Oregon, as killed in action.

GERMANS ARE SUSPECTED OF DEEP PLOT

ACTIVITY INDICATES THEY ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK AMERICANS

VON HINDENBURG'S STRATEGY IS SMELLED OUT

German General Believed to Be Planning to Strike Americans First While They Are Still in "Rookie" Class.

By J. W. T. MASON
(Written for the United Press)

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The northern flank of the district persistently reported to be the principal training ground of the American army in France is being brought into the possible area of combat by German activity about St. Mihiel.

The occasional French reconnoitering raids along the St. Mihiel front suggest enemy movements are suspected to be in course of preparation at that part of the line. If a German attack were to be delivered from St. Mihiel, its purpose could only be to threaten the American troops in training some distance further south. St. Mihiel is a secondary Verdun, about twenty miles south of the great Meuse fortress. It is the most important supply base held by the Germans on French soil near the American encampment.

St. Mihiel would form a strong center for offensive operations by the Germans if they could spare the men and munitions for operations on a major scale. Under these conditions there might be reason for some uneasiness concerning the inviolability of the American training ground. But, it is scarcely likely that any effort the Germans are now able to make would be sufficiently powerful to reach the American practice trenches.

Operations against General Pershing's rookies undoubtedly hold out a strong temptation to von Hindenburg, who is notoriously favorable to the strategy of striking the enemy first. But, if the Germans fall a victim to this temptation in the present instance, they will be playing into the hands of the French and the Americans. The district from St. Mihiel to the region of the supposed American encampment is heavily protected by an intricate series of defenses. Behind these positions the Americans would be admirably placed to protect themselves, even without French assistance.

With French help in reserve, the chances would all favor the Kaiser meeting a defeat second only to Verdun if he were to attempt to swing his line southward from St. Mihiel. The Kaiser's sole chance of a serious success is that he might develop a surprise major attack if the French were not alert. But the constant patrol, raiding and reconnaissance attacks in which the French are engaging near the American training center indicate that a surprise blow is out of the question.

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Judge J. C. Moreland Pioneer Lawyer Dead

SALEM, Feb. 2.—J. C. Moreland, clerk of the Supreme Court for ten years, died suddenly of heart failure at his home this morning. He died before relatives here could reach the bedside. He was at work yesterday. His age was 73; he was a native of Tennessee and celebrated his golden wedding in July. He left a widow, three sons and two daughters.

News was received in La Grande this morning of the death of Judge J. C. Moreland, one of the pioneer lawyers of the state and clerk of the Supreme Court. Judge Moreland was one of the past grand masters of the Masonic lodge of Oregon. The Masonic grand lodge will conduct his funeral Monday in Portland. George T. Cochran, a member of the grand lodge, has been summoned to attend.

BRITISH FORCES IN PALESTINE ON OFFENSIVE

GENERAL ALLENBY IS TRYING TO FORCE TURKS TO LEAVE JERICO

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The British expeditionary forces in Palestine have again assumed the offensive. General Allenby's line has been advanced to Amuth, three miles north of Birah. The British operating out of Jerusalem have advanced 20 miles north and started an encircling movement to cause the Turks to leave Jericho.

General Wood Recovers.
PARIS, Feb. 2.—French raids were successful in Mortier Wood. Artillery is going on in the vicinity of Burn-Le-Haast. General Wood, slightly wounded in the right arm by a shell splinter, has left the hospital.

Troops Make Raid.
LONDON, Feb. 2.—Liverpool troops raided the enemy trenches southeast of Arrmentiers and took several prisoners. An attempted enemy raid north of Passchendaele was repulsed.

SWITZERLAND SENDS GUARDS TO FRONTIER

REINFORCEMENTS DISPATCHED AS RESULT OF UNSETTLED CONDITIONS

ZURICH, Feb. 2.—An infantry brigade, two sections of Alpine guides and one signal unit have been mobilized to reinforce the frontier guard. It was explained this was the "result of internal and external conditions."

California Papers Merge.
The Monterey (Cal.) Cypress, a morning paper, and the American, an evening paper, have merged their interests.

John L. Sullivan Pugilist Drops Dead

ABINGTON, Mass., Feb. 2.—John L. Sullivan, ex-champion heavyweight pugilist of the world, dropped dead at his home here today. He was 60 years old.

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTED WITH SERVICE FLAG

NINETEEN STARS CONTAINED FOR BOYS AND TEACHERS WHO ENLISTED

GIRLS AT SCHOOL MAKE THE NATIONAL EMBLEM

Interesting Program and Impressive Ceremony Held—Principal McNeill Pays Tribute to Boys Who Answered Their Country's Call.

The presentation of the service flag to the High School yesterday afternoon was an impressive event.

The flag was made by the girls of the High School under the direction of Miss Estella Graybill, and contained nineteen stars, one for each High School student who was in High School at the time war was declared and who enlisted in the service of Uncle Sam, and one for Mr. Harold Mason, leader of the manual training department, who also enlisted. There was one gold star for the late William Claude Haisten, who enlisted in the navy and who died while in the service.

The ceremony was held in the High School auditorium, and Principal G. A. McNeill presided. The first number on the program was a song, "Over There," by the Boys' Glee Club. The boys sang with the curtain down, and when the song was over the curtain arose and Miss Imogene Orton read an original patriotic poem. This was followed by a solo, with patriotic words to the music of "Somewhere a Voice Is Calling," by Miss Marguerite Winters.

Those Who Enlisted
Then came the reading of the names of those who had enlisted:
EVERETT KNOWLES.
HERSCHEL HORSTMAN.
CHESTER THOMPSON.
TOM MURPHY.
DOUGLAS KLINE.
JESS ANDREWS.
HAROLD MASON.
WILLIAM SILVERTHORN.
CLAYTON INGLE.
WILLIAM CLAUD HAISTEN.
RALPH POSTON.
JOHN O'CONNELL.
HARRY MOON.
GEORGE RUSH.
DELBERT SNIDER.
JOSEPH CORBETT.
VINTON FORBES.
ALBERT CURREY.
KENNETH WILLIAMSON.

Principal McNeill's Address
This was followed by a talk by Principal McNeill, in which he spoke substantially as follows:
"Students of the High School and members of the Faculty:
"It is with a feeling mingled with pleasure and sadness that I can say a few words in an assembly of this kind. Of pleasure, because it was my privilege to know intimately everyone of the boys for whom these stars stand. Many of them I had in my classes. There is a feeling of sad-

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GERMAN MILITARY MACHINE HAS STRONG GRIP ON BERLIN

BANKER TO HEAD "Y" ACTIVITIES



Arthur M. Harris

Harris is a New York banker, of the firm Harris, Forbes & Co. He will sail for France shortly to direct the activities of the Y. M. C. A. there.

GENERAL STRIKE IS CALLED IN HOLLAND

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 2.—Radical societies of local workers have decided to call an "indefinite general strike in Holland Monday." Hard living conditions due to the war are the principal cause of the unrest.

THRIFT STAMP CAMPAIGN IS BEING ORGANIZED

Executive Committee Names Chairmen of Committees in Various Localities.

Committees handling the county management of the thrift stamp work met last night, Chairman F. L. Meyers, presiding. One of the important pieces of business transacted was to name the subchairmen in the various districts—the men who will handle local affairs in co-operation with and under the general direction of the county committee of seven, who, in turn, get their directions from the state committee. The men chosen to work in this capacity are as follows:

Elgin—F. E. Smith.
Cove—Carl Stackland.
Union—L. A. Wright.
Summerville—Jay Chant.
Medford Springs—Dunham Wright.
North Powder—Prof. Hall.
Perry—Horace Nelson.
Hillgard—C. M. Lewis.
Imbler—Walter Stringham.
Palmer Junction—Frank Baker.
Grand Ronde Co. Camp—Ed. Bean.
Stackey—A. J. Sullivan.
Island City—E. E. Kiddle.
Alsea—W. O. Watkins.
Tolocasset—L. B. Hatt.
Hot Lake—Olin Daseh.
Kanola—Martin King.
Selling stations are being arranged by Sales Director W. H. Bohnenkamp.

J. M. Burley, in charge of the industrial work has appointed A. C. McClellan and J. T. Ridenour as his assistants. The railroad men are interested and are arranging to buy substantial quantities of the stamps.

K. C. Drive Passes the \$4,400 Mark

The Knights of Columbus war fund drive in Union and Wallawa counties has passed the \$4,400 mark, according to J. H. Pearce, chairman of the executive committee.

OREGON BOY DEAD
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 2.—General Pershing has cabled a report of eleven deaths from illness, including Manuel Monez, of Echo, Oregon.

Brownsville—Cannery ships 13 carloads of canned goods in 1917, cars ranging from 60,000 to 90,000 pounds.

THOUSANDS OF STRIKERS FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE IRON FIST

CHANCELLOR POWERLESS TO INVOKE CIVIL LAW

Martial Law Has Been Proclaimed—Attempt Is Made to Break Strike By Lowering Rations to Strikers and By Threats to Kill.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 2.—The German military machine completely controls Berlin. Chancellor Hertling is powerless to invoke civil processes.

Thousands of strikers are feeling the weight of the militarists' attempt to crush the strike through hunger and the threat to shoot resisters.

An official Berlin statement says the strikes have been reduced to a scattering few in the suburbs.

Martial law has been formally proclaimed.

The order reducing rations to strikers became effective today, meaning hunger for thousands.

Citizens are forbidden to assemble or join in the street crowds under threat of execution.

The Lemberg strike is reported growing.

At Spandau a policeman was dragged from his horse and beaten. The railroad to a factory was wrecked.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 2.—Seven munitions plants in Berlin are under martial law and the strikers there have been ordered to return to work Monday under threat of military punishment. A majority of the Dusseldorf and Dantsig strikers have returned to work.

The arrest of Dittmann, an Independent-Socialist leader has aroused that party. It is preparing a national protest and demonstration.

Chancellor Hertling told the leaders he was powerless to release Dittmann as the military controls Berlin.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Holland today reports bloodshed in Berlin street rioting.

HILLGARD NEWS ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Scott Drove From Hillgard to La Grande in a Cutter—Mrs. George Mc Donald on Visit—Hillgard Ladies Are Knitting—Mrs. Andrew R. Marker on Visit.

HILLGARD, Ore. Jan. 30.—(Special)—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Scott went to La Grande in a cutter Wednesday, the first such trip of the season, from Hillgard.

Mrs. George McDonald and three children arrived here Sunday to stay a month or two with Mr. McDonald who is O.-W. agent here. Mrs. McDonald has been living in the Willamett valley near Salem.

Mrs. Arnoldus came up from Stummerville Monday to visit for a few days with her daughter Miss Elvira Arnoldus, third trick operator here. Several Hillgard ladies are doing knitting for the Red Cross.

W. V. Connor was a passenger to La Grande Wednesday.

Mrs. Andrew R. Marker arrived from Camp Lewis, Washington, Monday night and will remain here for some time, as the climate of the cantonment region did not agree with her. Her husband, Capt. Marker is still in Camp Lewis but may be transferred to the Presidio or sent east soon. Roads in this vicinity are almost impassable, and will be until we get colder weather. Considerable snow has fallen but even sleds cut right through to the mud.

Mr. Bard came in from La Grande Wednesday morning.

Mrs. C. N. Lewis is in receipt of a letter of congratulation from County Campaign Manager Ed. Kiddle in regard her efforts in securing Red Cross members. Thirty-two members were secured almost entirely by the personal work of Mrs. Lewis. The number of names secured was several more than the quota. Several ladies are taking up the knitting work and a few sweaters and other articles have been sent in.

THE WEATHER

PORTLAND, Feb. 2.—The United States weather bureau forecast: "Probably rain."