

WHEAT BILL IN CONGRESS

McNary-Haugen Measure Recently Submitted to Both Congressional Bodies.

WASHINGTON, D. C., (Special)—Final draft of a bill in corporation of the American Wheat Growers' plan for increasing the domestic price of wheat was completed and introduced in both Houses of Congress recently. The measure will hereafter be known as the McNary-Haugen bill. Senator McNary of Oregon and Representative Haugen of Iowa, chairman of the house committee on agriculture, being its joint sponsors. The bill provides for the establishment of an export commission with power to market the exportable portion of farm commodities, wheat, livestock, cotton, etc. The corporation would have the power to deal through present trade establishments or to do the actual marketing, and it is not the thought of those drafting the bill to destroy or injure existing marketing agents except where unavoidable.

The federal establishment would be empowered to determine a "fair exchange value" for wheat or other products, basing the price so that the commodity value would equal in purchasing power the value of the price paid to farmers during the previous years of 1905 and 1914. In cases where the world price for the commodity is less than the determined "fair exchange value" the export corporation would be empowered to deduct a sum from the sales price of the total domestic production of the commodity and apply the fund so secured as a premium to the portion sold for export. In the case of wheat, for example, a total of approximately 300,000,000 bushels is produced, of which less than 200,000,000 bushels is exported. So every cent per bushel collected as an excise tax would be applied at the rate of four cents a bushel as bounty to the export price.

The total cost of this bounty under the operation of the export corporation will be paid from the excise tax collected on the production, so that no portion of the expense will fall upon the government to be paid by general taxation.

American manufacturers and all labor employed by him enjoy the benefits of a protective tariff. Agriculture, whenever connected with the production of a product of which we have an exportable surplus, is forced to compete with the product of Europe in the marketing of their product and receive the same price as the European peasant receives less the cost of transportation to Europe. Under the tariff protection contemplated by the authors of this plan agriculture would be placed in the position and enjoy the same benefits of the protective tariff enjoyed by the manufacturing industries, for the bounty on the exportable portion of agriculture products would result in comparable increase in domestic prices, thus bringing the total price level of the commodity to a point determined by the commission to be fair.

The bill is an evolution of the plan of George M. Peck and H. S. Johnson of the Moline Plow Company, Secretary of Agriculture Henry C. Wallace, and other leading economists of the United States. It is being actively supported by organizations of the export commission league in the state of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Mississippi Valley states. A meeting was held Saturday at Pendleton at which formation of the Oregon export commission league was formed under the leadership of leading Unaffiliated County farmers and business men. They propose to immediately carry the organization to all portions of the State of Oregon.

KNIGHTS OF OLD WERE MEN OF A SMALL STATURE

CLEVELAND (AP)—Suits of armor worn by knights of old would fit lightly on the average high school lad of today. Few men now are small enough to squeeze into the coats of mail at the Museum of Art here.

Men of the Middle Ages must have averaged about 130 pounds in weight believes William M. Milliken, curator of decorative arts, who also finds that rounded shoulders did not thrive in the age of steel corselets—at least among the fighting men. Workmen have just assembled the latest acquisition for the museum's armor room, a rare suit of mail for man and horse. It was worn by a knight of the 14th century. Parts in the plates show the armor suffered busy blows. Yet the wearer had a waist line of only 20 inches, a calf 13 inches in circumference and would wear a No. 6 shoe in modern footwear. "Virtually all medieval armor is correspondingly small," says Mr. Milliken. "In European galleries there is hardly a suit of mail that would fit the average sized man of today."

AVIATORS RETURN FROM LONG FLIGHT

SAN DOMINGO CITY, W. I. (AP)—What is thought to be the longest flight ever undertaken by American aviators came to a successful close here recently when two navy airplanes alighted at the local aviation field. The machines were piloted by Lieut. Ford O. Rogers and Lieut. Horace B. Palmer, of the Marine Corps, with Sergeant Benjamin F. Belcher and Sergeant Peter P. Tolusciak as mechanics. They had covered 10,955 miles without a forced landing since September 13, when they started on a trip which took them as far as San Francisco.

The objective was the international air meet at St. Louis. The first leg was to Havana, the take-off here was at 6:15 a. m., and the aviators were en route to the American ambassador to Cuba at 3 o'clock of the same day. Washington was reached some 20 hours after the departure from this city. St. Louis, El Paso, San Diego and San Francisco were visited on the way out, and the return trip took in Salt Lake City, Omaha and Washington again.

The long flight carried the flyers over the ocean, lakes, deserts, plain and mountain passes. Speed was not an object. The trip was undertaken to demonstrate the mobility of the aviation squadron stationed on this West Indian island.

Here's Sport Writer Who Admitted He Wasn't Expert

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Once in the annals of American Journalism sport events were not covered by experts. In an issue of The Californian of March 15, 1848, this item appeared:

"A horse race came off at the Dolores-Mission course three miles from town, on Monday, March 8, between the horse of W. A. Liedendorff, Esq., of this place, and one of Mr. Hedspath, of Sonoma. The judges decided in favor of Hedspath's, he being a little ahead at the coming out place. "We are not acquainted with the language of the turf and consequently can give only common parlance."

Dublin Expects Many Visitors. DUBLIN (AP)—A large number of visitors, including many Americans, are expected in Dublin during the Twelfth of June next August. The authorities are confronted with the problem of accommodations for the visitors and a committee now is making a study of the situation. Since 1914 Dublin has lost 20 hotels and now has fewer good hotels than any city of its size in Europe.

A returned traveler informs us the separatist movement in that sickening one the ship makes.

MILD WINTERS CONFUSE BIRDS

This Year No Exception—Nomadic Bird Life Is Driven into Strange Paths.

BOSTON (AP)—The combination of an unusually dry summer and early autumn and an unusually warm December created an unusual and, in some cases disastrous conditions for the wild life of New England and Eastern Canada. Edward Howe Forbush, director of the division of ornithology of the Massachusetts state department of agriculture, in a summary of early winter bird movements in New England, says that the feathered friends of man are facing a serious food shortage.

"Up to December 25," Mr. Forbush says, "the ground was bare and the weather mild as far north as Ottawa and wild flowers were blooming in northern Vermont. In southern New England there were reports of snakes crawling, gnats on the wing, swarms of beetles and grasshoppers picked for the Christmas dinner. "The summer and fall were so remarkably dry that many fruits and seeds failed to develop, and there is a widespread dearth of food for birds in the north. One observer who has traveled hundreds of miles throughout the forests of northern Quebec says that he has hardly seen a new cone except on some red pines. All thru northern New England and much of the inhabited part of the eastern provinces of Canada, there are few acorns or nuts and comparatively little wild fruit. "Trappers find skunks scarce in the woods, but many have come into buildings, lean-toes and cellars searching for food. In northern Vermont squirrels are gathering and storing wild apples. One farmer found that they had placed the fruit in rows on high beams of his barn. "There was so little rainfall in the breeding season that there was no water in the swamps, and many of the brooks ran dry. Shallow ponds where ducks feed dried up. Low water about the shallow margins of larger ponds decreased the supply of food for fresh-water fowl, so that comparatively few young ducks were raised. In some localities woodcocks and snipe were near starvation and on account of shortage of berries, etc., ruffed grouse in New Hampshire fed on poplar leaves. Wolves are

numerous in the forests of Ontario and are destroying many deer. "The season has been so mild that very little has been heard of the Arctic gulls. Ducks and geese have remained in the north longer than usual. Whenever a sudden frost has closed the small ponds, many ducks and geese, instead of going south, have gone to the open waters along the coast of Labrador, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the St. Lawrence river and Lake Champlain, coming back to the ponds again when milder weather melted the ice. The greatest concentration of the season came along the Massachusetts coast in Christmas week. "Crows left northern New England early, but some have appeared since locally wherever they found a food supply. Starlings remain as far north as northern Vermont and are moving in flocks, destroying berries that otherwise provide food for native birds. "Chickadees seem to be the most common and widely distributed birds of the month. A few remain as far north as Villamont, Quebec, only 150 miles from James Bay. Land birds generally are scarce this winter as there is not enough food to hold them."

LEE SURRENDERED
IN WAGON, CLAIMS
JOHN MEAGHER, 77

SYRACUSE, N. Y. (U.S.S.)—History pictures General Robert E. Lee as mounted upon a splendid white horse when he surrendered to General U. S. Grant at Appomattox in 1865; but history is wrong on that point, according to John Meagher, 77, of Fayetteville, a colonel-in-chief, in the days of '61 with Company E, Sixty-third Regiment, New York City.

Meagher says his flag was nearest to the Rebel lines when Lee surrendered and that Lee appeared seated in a wagon, with three officers of the Confederate Army; that the words "Southern Express" were painted upon the sides of the wagon and that it was drawn by four squirrel-gray horses.

Meagher fought two years in the Civil war, participating in twenty-four battles, among which were the battles of Gettysburg and the Wilderness. Every color-sergeant in his regiment excepting himself was either killed or promoted, leaving him the only one at the end of the war.

5,106 German Soldiers Suicides. BERLIN (AP)—Official war records in Germany show that 5,106 German soldiers killed themselves during the world war. Nineteen soldiers, convicted by court martial of low crimes were executed and 249 men were reported murdered by comrades.

TO WITHDRAW SOVIET PAPER

Use of Paper Rubles Expected to End During Year; to Circulate Silver.

MOSCOW (AP)—Before the middle of 1924 paper rubles promised to be a thing of the past in Soviet Russia. The silver coins now being minted are to be put into circulation in the spring, according to Commissar for Finance Sokolnikoff. They will be used for fractional currency, while the "chevrons" or ten ruble gold note of the state bank, will serve as a monetary unit.

The government has had silver money prepared for many months but hesitated to issue it because of the natural inclination of the peasant to stow coins away. Gold coins also have been minted, but probably will not be put into general circulation.

At the present time Russia has about 250,000,000 gold rubles worth of chevrons in circulation, while the gold value of the paper money is only about one-fifth of that amount. It is planned to replace this latter by silver currency, also to be backed by a gold guarantee. Additional guaranteed bank paper and silver money will be issued as assets warrant. During pre-war days, Russia had more than 2,000,000,000 gold rubles worth of coins and guaranteed paper in circulation, or about eight times the money available at present. Although the country will have to do business on an eighth of the money it had available formerly, nevertheless the government considers it better to have a money famine than to issue more practically worthless paper.

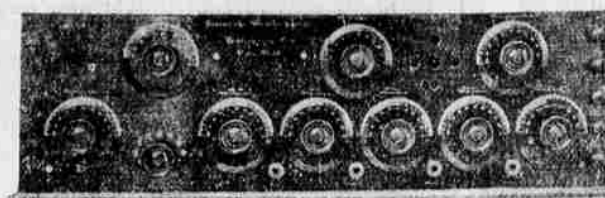
The Soviet ruble never reached the low valuation of the German mark, although the currency has from time to time been simplified by the expedient of lopping off a few ciphers. A note for 10,000 rubles of issues prior to 1922 became one ruble when, at first, four ciphers were removed. In 1923 two more ciphers were removed, making six in all, and making one 1923 paper ruble equal to one million rubles of all issues prior to 1922, including paper money issued by the Czar.

Even the 1923 paper money, however, depreciated quickly. Starting the year at about 20 rubles to the dollar, this paper had fallen, in late December, to more than 5,000 rubles to the dollar, or, if figured on the basis of pre-1922 rubles, the exchange was 5,000,000,000 to the dollar. In 1924 virtually everything in Russia will be on a gold basis. The commissariat of finance has announced that no more "taxes in kind" will be collected from the peasants. All will be collected in money.

Makes Liquor Bait. MARION, Ill. (AP)—Liquor raids in Williamson county were resumed Sunday morning by 500 members of the Ku Klux Klan led by S. Glenn Young, dry worshiper, in which is alleged bootleggers were captured and seven stills reported found.

Shrouded in secrecy, the raids which took 10 hours to complete, were entirely over before Major Omar J. McMakin, reconnaissance officer of the Illinois national guard, and the county sheriff's office had learned of them. Major McMakin had remained in the

county when state troops were withdrawn last Tuesday following the announcement by Sheriff Gallagher that conditions were peaceful in the county. "Ours" is the word used by an ordinary wife, but not by the wife who inherits a few thousand dollars. Destiny heeled Napoleon at Waterloo. Perhaps it is to give ordinary folk a chance that you are held down.



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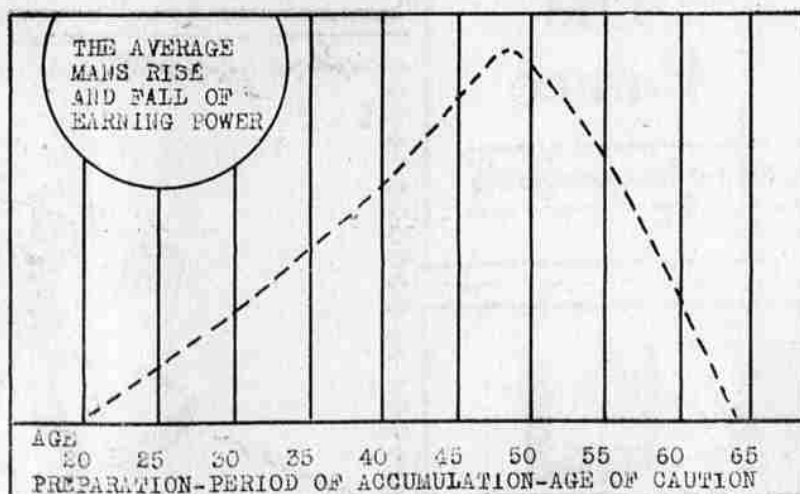
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