

WIDE INQUIRY OVER HIGH PRICES BEGUN

President Wilson Orders Bureaus to Ascertain if War is Pretext for Rise.

PUNITIVE MEANS SOUGHT

"It's Damnable if Merchants Seize Upon Situation for Gain," Declares Secretary Redfield—3 Departments Investigate.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—President Wilson set the machinery of the Federal Government in motion today to determine whether the cost of living is being increased upon the pretext of the conditions existing in Europe. He called upon Attorney-General McReynolds to report if criminal proceedings would be warranted and if any new law were necessary. The President may send a special message to Congress if new legislation is found to be needed.

"Certainly the country ought to be defended," the President wrote to the Attorney-General, "if possible, against men who would take advantage of such circumstances to increase the price of food and the difficulties of living."

Investigation Begun at Once. Attorney-General McReynolds at once set at work the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice, which has hundreds of agents throughout the country. Agents of the Department of Commerce also were started on the inquiry and Secretary Redfield conferred with Secretary Houston, of the Department of Agriculture.

Congressmen who already have introduced resolutions to investigate rises in prices and others who are preparing similar measures viewed the action of the Administration with satisfaction. They pointed out that while flour particularly has taken a great jump in price, wheat exports practically are paralyzed and millions of bushels are piled up in elevators in freight cars straggling across the continent.

\$100,000 Asked for Probe. Secretary Redfield wrote Chairman Adamson, of the House committee, suggesting an appropriation of \$100,000 for his part of the investigation. "If the present stoppage of trade with foreign countries is made the basis for an attempt in this country to put up prices artificially," the Secretary said, "it is unpatriotic. I may say even damnable."

The food question was the first into which President Wilson plunged when he went back to his desk today after his return from Rome, where he buried Mrs. Wilson. His letter to the Attorney-General was as follows:

"The rapid and unexplained increase in the prices of foodstuffs in this country on the pretext of the conditions existing in Europe is so serious and vital a matter that I take the liberty of calling your attention to it."

Way to Punish Asked About. "I will be very much obliged if you would advise me whether there is under existing law any action which the Department of Justice could take either by way of investigation, or legal process, and what Federal legislation, if any, would in your judgment, be justifiable and warrantable in the circumstances."

"I feel that this is a matter which we cannot let pass by without trying to serve the country. Certainly the country ought to be protected against men who would take advantage of such circumstances to increase the price of food and the difficulties of living."

Attorney-General McReynolds at once replied: "The head of our special agents has been instructed to give directions to his men throughout the country to begin investigation in order to ascertain the real facts, and I am sending the various District Attorneys similar instructions. This should enable us to secure some definite information in respect to true conditions."

"May I take the liberty of suggesting that perhaps the agents of the Department of Commerce could render valuable assistance along the lines indicated?"

"When we have become somewhat more familiar with the exact situation, I hope to be able to make you some suggestions in respect to legal proceedings or appropriate legislation."

"The Department has for some time been making investigations in various directions concerning the price of foodstuffs."

CHICAGO CAFES PRICES RISE. Stockyards Situation Firm, All but Eggs Showing Increase.

CHICAGO, Aug. 13.—Increases in living expenses spread today to include most of the most pretentious cafes and a general rise of prices was marked on the bills. In spite of threatened investigations by Nation, state and city, there was no reduction in the cost of staples for home consumption. At the stockyards there was no change in the wholesale price of meats. Cattle and hog receipts continued under normal and the packers, declaring they were facing the greatest shortage in their history, kept the prices firm.

Almost all the staples showed a slight increase, with a firm market. Wholesalers advanced butter half a cent for good grades, potatoes 5 to 10 cents a barrel, rib beef from 21 to 22 cents, loins from 22 to 24 and chuck from 13 to 12 cents.

ROYAL CADETS, "WEST POINTERS" OF AUSTRIA, BEING SWORN IN AS OFFICERS.



Upper Photo Shows Members of Royal Kadetens Schule, the Military Training Academy for Officers of the Austrian Army Being Reviewed by Archduke Leopold Salvator, Before Swearing Them in as Officers, Lower Photo Shows Austrian Officers Engaged in Military Conference on Field of Action.

AUSTRIA ALL READY

Late Archduke's Changes in Army Notable.

OLD GENERALS RIDICULE

During First Year as Chief Army Inspector Maneuvers Develop New Soldiers—Present War Will Bring Out Results.

BY J. VON MAKDYCH, First Lieutenant Austrian Army Reserve.

The clash of Russia and Austria did not come unexpectedly. The issued declaration of war caused in the monarchy neither consternation nor fear. From the beginning of his activity as Chief Army Inspector, Archduke Francis Ferdinand undertook changes in our army which brought forth a head-shaking of many generals of the old school.

During his first year as Chief Army Inspector occasional trials were had at the Fall Army maneuvers, which easily could have resulted in loss of life, but fortunately transpired without damage or casualties. Regiments of infantry and cavalry actually were overhauled by weakly charged shrapnel in order to accustom the men to act under fire.

Neither were the advantages and benefits to be derived from another novel institution at all appreciated from the beginning. We have referred now to the weekly mock battles. On a certain day of each week the entire corps of officers of each regiment was assembled under the leadership of the commander of the regiment, who thereupon engaged in and discussed the theory of a battle in a given locality.

Besides this there was held once a month one great sham battle in which all officers of the entire garrison took part and which lasted at least two or three days.

The preferred territory of these discussions and sham battles was the Russian frontier, and in our opinion there is hardly a stretch of tract of land to be found in that locality which has not been studied in the most thorough manner during these trials. As a consequence, we will not be fighting on strange territory, and during these trials not only battles were discussed which already have been actually fought in this war, but all eventualities were considered, great consideration having been given to the supply of ammunition, provisions and forage.

Provided with general and special maps, each individual officer was

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CABLE IS CENSORED

United States Virtually Decides on Policy.

NEUTRALITY IS SOUGHT

Beligerent Nations, However, as Well as Large Commercial Interests, Join in Desiring Unhindered Communication.

DREAM OF YEARS GONE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—President Wilson and Secretary Bryan discussed at length today a plan to apply at all cable offices in the country the same censorship which recently had been placed on wireless stations to prevent neutral territory from being used as a base for the transmission of military or naval information to the belligerent countries of Europe.

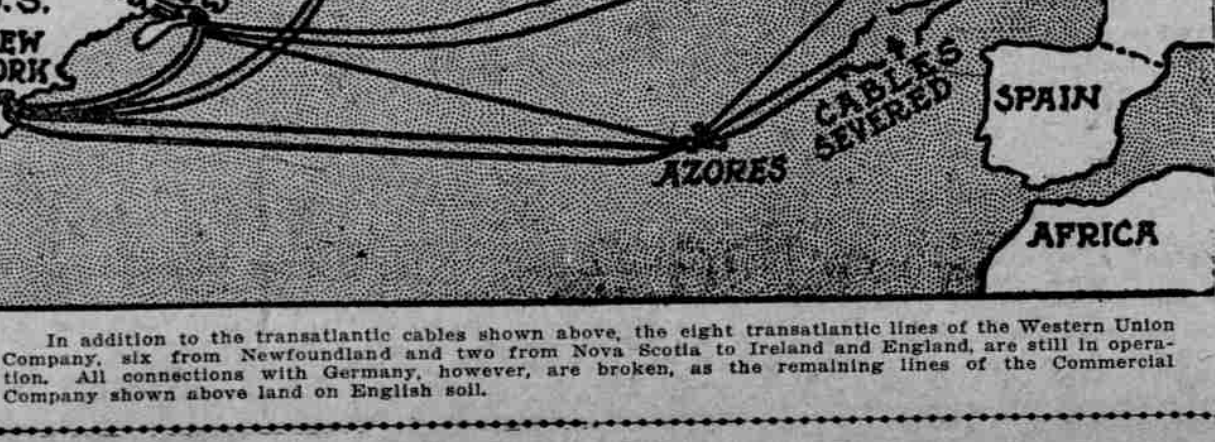
At the conclusion of the conference it became known that the President and Mr. Bryan were agreed that an impartial enforcing of neutrality would require censoring of cables as well as wireless.

British Advantage Noted. A new phase was called to their attention, however, which has delayed final decision until tomorrow's Cabinet meeting. This is the comparative ease with which England could evade the censorship at cable offices in the United States by having all her messages sent by telephone, telegraph, mail or messenger over the Canadian border.

Law Studied Carefully. The question of the authority of this Government over the cable companies and its right to prescribe the conditions under which they shall operate has required careful study at the State Department in connection with the subject of neutralizing the radio systems.

Though the question is new and of great importance, the officials have satisfied themselves that the Government is entirely within its rights.

Strong representations have been made to the State Department not only by belligerent nations, but also by the great commercial interests, against any attempt to control either the wireless



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18 TREATIES RATIFIED

Senate Puts O. K. on Bryan's Peace Measures.

COURTS WILL CUT PRICES

Canada to Pass Law Placing in Hands of Judges Ample Powers.

OTTAWA, Ont., Aug. 13.—A law to control prices of fuel and all necessities of life will be enacted by the Canadian parliament which meets next Tuesday in special session to pass war measures.

The Government will enact a statute by which the prices charged by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers may be brought before a judge and, if found that advantage has been taken of conditions created by war unduly to advance prices, they may be reduced by a court order.

Since the declaration of war the charges for flour, fuel, sugar, tea and many other commodities have increased throughout Canada. The Government finds since that time it cannot borrow in London, the modest contribution of aid for England and defense of itself which Canada made is costing thousands a day. It is regarded as certain that the finance minister will ask for the imposition of war taxes to finance his military and civil affairs.

ALL CARGO RATES SOAR

EVERY COMMODITY SENT FROM SEATTLE TO EUROPE INCLUDED.

Danger of Seizure and War-Hazard Insurance Responsible for Rise by All Lines.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 13.—(Special.)—On account of tremendous spikes in the price of the belligerent nations of Europe and the increased cost of maintenance of shipping facilities necessitated by war-hazard insurance, rates on every commodity transported by steamer between Seattle and ports in Europe leaped skyward today.

Seattle representatives of the big lines operating between the North Pacific and Europe announced that, effective immediately, rates on canned salmon from Seattle to London and Liverpool will be advanced from 40s 6d to 50s; lumber from 75s to 100s; whale oil from 40s to 50s; wheat and flour from 40s to 50s.

Yellow, scrap metal and general freight has been advanced 25 per cent. The new rates are effective on shipments made either by way of the Panama Canal or the Straits of Magellan in vessels of the regular lines.

The rates on wheat and flour, which became effective August 1, are \$2.50 to Japanese ports, \$3.50 to Hongkong, and \$4 to Manila and Shanghai.

It is now proposed to advance the rates, effective immediately, to \$5 from Seattle to all ports in the Orient, with the exception of Shanghai, to which port a rate of \$5.50 has been proposed. An advance of 25 per cent on other commodities is under consideration.

The lines affected by the new rates to the Orient include the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Blue Funnel line, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, the Hamburg-American line and the Great Northern Steamship Company.

All these companies, with the exception of the Hamburg-American line, will receive freight.

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Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and Persia contained a provision, which the Senate eliminated, providing that the contracting parties agree not to increase their naval or military programs unless danger from a third power should compel such increase pending report of the international commission. The committee agreed that this provision "would produce complications and might embarrass this Government far more than benefit it."

BIG LOAN FROWNED ON

Wilson Opposes Morgan Plan to Aid French Finances.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—President Wilson was confronted today with the problem whether American bankers shall be permitted to float loans in the United States for the nations engaged in the war.

Though the President has not reached a final decision, he is strongly opposed to the idea. The question arose through the desire of J. P. Morgan & Co. to float a loan of several hundred million dollars for the French government. Inquiry was made of the State Department by the Morgan firm as to whether the flotation of such a loan would be regarded as a violation of neutrality.

Secretary Bryan discussed the subject with Mr. Wilson, who is studying it carefully before returning a final answer.

Besides J. P. Morgan & Co. it is said that another New York banking house of prominence is desirous of floating a loan for Austria, but the State Department has not yet been approached, so far as could be learned tonight.

Any formal inquiry as to questions of neutrality involved.

While there is no provision in the American neutrality statutes against the lending of money to foreign nations and no international agreement exists forbidding it as a violation of neutrality, the President's judgment is that if it were permitted serious misunderstanding might ensue in Europe as to the real attitude of the Government and people toward the different nations in the struggle.

A loan was floated for Japan at the time of the Russo-Japanese war, but notwithstanding the precedent it is President Wilson's belief that the influence of the American Government ought to be exerted so far as possible toward reducing the length of the strife, rather than adding elements for its prolongation. He is likewise opposed to the sending of large quantities of gold from the United States at a time when domestic financial needs are paramount.

Women employed in the textile industry in Germany are in their majority over the men, there being 60,000 females as against 37,000 men. In the clothing industry the women outnumber the men, with 228,000 females to 100,000 males.

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HOLMES CASE IS PENDING

Civil Service Action Deferred Until Examination Is Checked.

Until the official examination of J. A. Foulhoux and Thomas Humphrey, have been completed, the examination papers in the recent civil service examinations for the position of chief of the Bureau of Highways and Bridges, nothing further will be done in the case of W. Holmes, who now holds the position of chief of the bureau in spite of his failure to pass the examination.

The Civil Service Board decided yesterday that nothing should be done with the case until the examiners go over the papers to ascertain if Mr. Holmes had in fact passed had his papers been rechecked with others.

A woman at Abertyswg, in the Rhymney Valley, Wales, gave birth to four children recently. Six of whom lived more than a couple of hours.