# 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 termine 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 were 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.

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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.

with Secretary Houston, of the Department of Agriculture.

Congressmen who already have introduced resolutions to investigate the rise 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 or in freight cars strung across the continent.

\$10,000 Asked for Probe. Secretary Redfield wrote Chairman Adamson, of the House commerce committee, suggesting an appropriation of \$10,000 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," said the Secretary, "it is unpatriotic. I may say even damnable."

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 unwarranted 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.

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 independ tion, if any, would in your judgment, be justifiable and warrantable in the

"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 defended, if possible, against men who would take advantage of such circumstances to increase the price of food and the difficulties of living."

Attorney Conser's McDonnelles to account which brought forth a "I feel that this is a matter which

Attorney-General McReynolds at once

"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

"May I take the liberty of suggesting that perhaps the agents of the Depart-ment of Commerce could render valu-able assistance along the lines indi-

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

"The Department has for some time been making investigations in various street, in the price of food-

directions concerning the price of food-

CHICAGO CAFES! PRICES RISE Stockyards Situation Firm, All but

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 a barrel, rib beef from 21 to 22 cents, loins from 23 to 24 and chucks from 13 to 13% cents. Eggs were half a cent cheaper.

Retail meat dealers denied state-ments from the packing-houses that high meat prices were due to a phys-ical shortage and were not influenced

by the war times.

"Retailers are charging but 1 cent more a pound for means than they pay." said one retail dealer with several big

downtown stores.

He declared the packers had prepared for just such a shortage by filling the cold storage houses, and that the increase was not justifiable.

PORTLAND INQUIRY STARTED

Washington's Order to Investigate

Prices Received Here.

An order was received this morning by Deputy United States District At-torney Johnson from Washington to investigate the sudden increase in price of foodstuffs since the declaration of the European war. The investiga-tion has been begun, says Mr. Johnson, and every effort will be made to dis-cover whether any merchant or dealer is working in violation of the Sher-man anti-trust bill.

man anti-trust bill. "I can see no reason for the price in foodstuffs going up." said Mr. Johnson, 'and I am heartily in favor of the investigation. If we discover that anyone has violated the Sherman law we will prosecute him. I think the step taken by the Government will greatly assist in lowering the prices of food." ROYAL CADETS, "WEST POINTERS" OF AUSTRIA, BEING SWORN IN AS OFFICERS



Austro-Hungarian army.

PASSAGE TO VISIT MOTHER.

Court Interpreter Returns to Post and

Paid Are Stranded.

Balked by the European war from

a visit to his aged mother, whom he

has not seen since he was a young

man, George Giustin, Austrian inter-

turned to Portland yesterday from

passage.
"The confusion among these people is terrible," said Mr. Glustin. "Every man is fighting for some sort of a chance to get back. Only the reserv-

MAP SHOWING SEVERED GERMAN CABLES

In addition to the transatiantic cables shown above, the eight transatiantic lines of the Western Union Company, six from Newfoundland and two from Nova Scotia to Ireland and England, are still in operation. All connections with Germany, however, are broken, as the remaining lines of the Commercial Company shown above land on English soil.

**REQUINDLAND** 

STAJOHNS

ATLANTIC OCEAN

preter in

the Municipal Court, re-

-Photos Copyrights by Underwood & Underwood. er Photo Shows Members of Royal Kedeten 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.

Late Archduke's Changes in Army Notable.

OLD GENERALS RIDICULE

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

BY J. VON MAKDYCH, First Lieutenant Austrian Army Reserve. The clash of Russia and Austria did

in our army which brought forth a head-shaking of many generals of the 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 overshot by weakly charged shrapnels in order to accustom the men to act under fire Granats, steel granats and shrapnels were used in these trials, which brought forth great admiration of the attending foreign attaches.

brought forth great admiration of the attending foreign attaches.

Neither were the advantages and benefits to be derived from another novel institution at all appreciated from the beginning. We have reference 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.

Eggs Showing Increase.

CHICAGO, Aug. 13.—Increases in living expenses spread today to include most of the more pretentious cafes and clubs, 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.

munition, provisions and forage.

Provided with general and special maps, each individual officer was

CANADA

YORK

# obliged to act as independent commander of his division and take a hand as occasion would require, all mistakes or bad moves being corrected and explained by the leader of these discussions. Consequently our corps of officers has been trained by these tactics that in case of dire necessity even the youngest officer can take command of a given division of his troops without letting the occasion find him undecided or incompetent. In this manner the team work and the individual as well as the concerted action of the various army divisions has been increased greatly in efficiency. We lay it greatly to these weekly war discussions and sham battles that the outbreak of the war found us ready on such short notice, with our commissary and ammunition departments well supplied. Only now, and chiefly by this war, will it be proved what an efficient tutor Archduke Francis Ferdinand was, whose death means an irreparable loss to the Austro-Hungarian army.

United States Virtually De-

NEUTRALITY IS

Well as Large Commercial Interests, Join in Desiring Unhampered Communication.

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 Danger of Seizure and War-Hazzard 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 enforcement of neutrality would require censoring of cables as well as wireless.

British Advantage Noted.

New York. For years he has saved and planned on the trip. Two weeks ago, before the war situation looked so serious, Mr. Giustin bought his ticket and left to realize his dream 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 of years.

In New York City he was met with the information that he could not get passage across the Atlantic. In vain he tried all the steamship companies. No boats would risk a voyage.

His mother lives at Dalmatia, Austria, which is outside the war zone, and Mr. Glustin, even after war had broken out, hoped he would be able to get there. Himself nearly 60 years old, he can hope for few years longer in which to see his mother alive.

In New York he met thousands of foreigners who wanted to go to their native countries, but could not get passage. censorship at cable offices in the United States by having all her messages sent b) telephone, telegraph, mail or mes-senger over the Canadian border for transmission through the Canadian ca-bles at Halifax, N S.

although the German government has protested against the unrestricted use of the cable by England from the United States while German-owned wireless c npanies and other stations are unable to send code messages, the elimination of all forms of censorship in the United States on either cable or wireless is said to be the wish of the Germans as well as commercial com-panies concerned.

Law Studied Carefully.

The question of the authority of this Government over the cable companies Government over the cable companies and its right to prescribe the conditions under which they shall operate has received 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 chance to get back. Only the reservists have a chance.

"People have come to New York
from all parts of the United States,
their tickets bought and paid for, only
to find that they cannot get passage.
They wait in New York, hoping that
something will turn up so they can
get through. Their funds dwindle and
right now many of them are destitute."

Forced to abandon one of the dreams
of his life in America, Mr. Giustin returned to his post in the Municipal
Court yesterday. great commercial interests, against any attempt to control either the wireless

It is expected that parliament will be asked to impose some form of war tax. The revenues of Canada are derived chiefly from customs duties. Curtailment of import orders, due to financial stringency, had seriously reduced the government's revenue before the war. Since then, the shrinkage has been more serious.

The government finds since that time it cannot borrow in London. The modest contribution of aid for Engiand and defense of herself which Canada made is costing thousands a day. cides on Policy.

ada made is costing thousands a day. It is regarded as certain that the fi-nance minister will ask for the imnance minister will ask for the position of war taxes to enable administration to finance its military

> EVERY COMMODITY SENT FROM SEATTLE TO EUROPE INCLUDED. by All Lines.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 13. - (Special.)-On account of tremendous risks selzure by the beiligerent nations of Europe and the increased cost of maintenance of shipping facilities necessitated by war-hazard insurance,

Canada to Pass Law Placing in

Hands of Judges Ample Powers.

OTTAWA, Ont., Aug. 13 .- A law to

The government will enact a statute

The government will take 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

cessitated 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 announce 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.

Tallow, scrap metal and general

from 40s. to 50s.

Tallow, 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

ama Canal or the Stratts of Magelian 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 Honkong, and \$4 to Manila and Shanghai.

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

sideration.

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 Shoshen 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.

HOLMES CASE IS PENDING Civil Service Action Deferred Until

Examination Is Checked.

Until the official examin's, J. A. Foulthoux and Thomas Pumphrey, have time to check over 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 H. 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 could have passed had his papers been rerated with others.

Astoria Pythians Incorporate. ASTORIA. Or., Aug. 13.—(Special.)—Articles of incorporation of Astoria Lodge, No. 6, Knights of Pythias, were filed in the County Clerk's office to-day. The incorporators are the fol-lowing officers of the lodge: Herman D. Kribbs, chancellor commander; A. J. C. Schroeder, keeper of records and seals; C. W. Bar, L. M. H. Wise and Thomas B. Loughery, trustees. The property owned by the lodge is valued at \$5000.

A woman at Abertysaws, in the Rhym-ey Valley, Wales, gave birth to four bildren recently, none of whom lived more han a couple of hours.



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\$6.50 Suits ....\$5.10 \$8.50 Suits ....\$6.75 \$10.00 Suits ....\$7.85

Boys' Bathing Suits Reduced

\$1.50 Felt Hats 98c

All Wash Suits Half Price.

systems or cables. The German government made such representations in behalf of the station at Sayville, L. L. and Tuckerton, N. J., and the Marconi Company, the British pioneer organization in wireless extension, has protested against any interference on the part of the Government in the workings of its stations. COURTS WILL CUT PRICES Peace Measures.

control prices of fuel and all neces-sities of life will be enacted by the Canadian parliament which meets next Tuesday in special session to pass war

Further Consideration to Be Given to Cases of Santo Domingo, Now in Revolt, and Panama, Which Has Canal Agreement.

of conditions created by war unduly to advance prices, they may be re-duced by a court order.

Since the declaration of war the charges for flour, fuel, sugar, tea and many other commodities have in-creased throughout Canada.

It is expected that parliament will be asked to imnose some form of war WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 .- Eighteen of the 20 peace treaties with foreign nations providing for commissions of inquiry before resort to arms in international disputes which ordinary re-sources of diplomacy fail to settle were ratified by the Senate today. The treaties with the Dominican Republic and Panama were held up for further consideration.

Treaties ratified are with Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland.

the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Persia. Costa Rica, Venezuela, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

Two Treatles Postponed. Postponement of action in pacts with the Dominican Republic and Panama

the same character and scope. They provide for the creation of an interna-tional commission with each country to which disputes that may arise in the future which diplomatic methods fail to adjust shall be referred for investi-gation and report, and the parties to gation and report, and the parties to the treaties agree not to declare war or begin hostilities during such investigation and before the report is submitted. The life of the treaties is limited to five years. The contracting parties are not bound by the finding of facts as made by the international commission, but each reserves the right to act independently on the dispute after the report of the commission shall be submitted.

"The main purposes of these treaties," says the committee, "is to give time for nations engaged in international controversies to reflect and to afford opportunity for subsidence of passion before hostilities shall begin; before the passions of war shall have inflamed a nation an opportunity is given for the influence of peace and reason to prevail."

eason to prevail."
Treaties with Salvador, Guatemala,

Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and Per-18 TREATIES RATIFIED

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 programmes 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

TWO COMPACTS HELD UP 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 any of the nations en-gaged in the war.

Though the President has not reached 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 floation of such a loan would be 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 an-

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 Depart-ment has not yet been approached, so far as could be learned tonight, with 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 na-

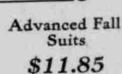
the Dominican Republic and Panama was determined on after spirited debate over present relations between the United States and those republics. The United States is now engaged in attempting to settle a revolution in San Domingo, and it was suggested that the pending agreement might conflict with existing treaties.

Senator Fall led opposition to ratification of the Panama treaty in its present form. Under the Panama Canal act ships of that republic may pass through the canal free of toils. Senator Fall urged that any new convention should prevent the possibility of complications arising through an alliance with foreign interest by citizens of Panama to purchase ships.

Investigation is Provided.

The treaties ratified are generally of The Treaties ratified devices of the lending of international agreement the caust for international agreement exists forbidding it as a violation of the Eurost at violation of the Panama to fit the President Wilson's belief that the influence of the Russo-Japanese war, but notwithstanding the precedent it is president Wilson's belief that the influence of the Russo-Japanese war, but notwithstanding the precedent it is president Wilson's belief that the influence of the Russo-Japanese war, but motivated for Japan at the time of the Russo-Japanese war, but motivated for Japan at the time of the Russo-Japanese war, but motivated for Japan at the time of the Russo-Japanes

Women employed in the textile industry in Germany are in a majority over the men, there being 400,000 females as against 371,000 men. In the clothing industry, the women outnumber the men, with 228,000 in 57,000.



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