

HOUSE COMMITTEE WANTS FOOD PROBE

Shortage Is Actual Menace in United States, Says Trade Commission Chairman.

PRODUCT CONTROL HINTED

Output, However, Not Keeping Pace With Consumption—Consideration by Congress Immediately Is Recommended in Report.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—In reporting favorably Representative Borland's resolution to have the House direct the Federal Trade Commission to make an exhaustive inquiry into the high cost of living, the judiciary committee today expressed the opinion that only a thorough investigation into production, marketing and storage would solve the problem.

A letter from Chairman Hurley, of the Trade Commission, accompanied the report, saying the inquiry should require 15 to 18 months and cost about \$145,000.

Products Control Indicated. Hearings on the shortage and present high price of foodstuffs, the report said, had disclosed a condition "strongly pointing to a control of products referred to as not keeping pace with consumption throughout the country as represented by the growing industrial population of the cities."

Food Shortage Is Menace. "These are in good, warm fabrics; every age from 3 to 10 years. A dandy present for the boys on Christmas morning. Make your selections today. —Second Floor

These are in good, warm fabrics; every age from 3 to 10 years.

"Your committee believes there is an economic problem involved." It continued, "which can only be solved in the interest of the American people by a thorough investigation of the subject. The cost of living has been steadily increasing, until a condition is presented which demands the immediate and intelligent consideration of the Federal authorities and which may require legislation to correct the present system."

The House took no action on the resolution.

Socialist Offers Plan. The Socialist plan for meeting the food problem was outlined by the House today, when Representative London, of New York, introduced a bill to create a Federal food commission, comprising the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor, to recommend action by the President and Congress.

The bill would direct the commission to ascertain all the facts regarding food supply and authorize the President to put an embargo on exports if necessary. Government regulation of transportation, preservation, marketing and distribution of food is contemplated as a last resort.

COAL COMBINE IS SUSPECTED

Federal Investigator Says Brokers Try to Create Panic.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—That there are grounds for the suspicion that the recent increase in the price of coal was the result of an artificial and illegal combination, was the statement made here today by George W. Anderson, Federal District Attorney, at Boston, who is in charge of the Government's National food and fuel inquiry.

Mr. Anderson came here to confer with special assistant United States Attorney-General Swacker in charge of the Federal grand jury investigation in this city, after having held similar conferences with the Federal and local authorities in Washington, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Chicago.

"When there are indications that the movement of coal has been checked not only on railroads, but at terminals," Mr. Anderson said, "there is reason to suspect that such action probably is the result of an artificial and illegal combination designed to reap extortionate profits through a speculative market."

"When you find coal brokers and coal dealers reconsigning coal cars over and over again so as to delay delivery and thereby create a panic, you find a prima facie case.

"Such a condition is similar to that recently called by David Lloyd George 'profiting.'"

"Boston," Mr. Anderson added, turning to the food situation, "is the city at present suffering. It even has a shortage of its favorite foodstuff—beans—which are now selling at \$7 a bushel."

CITY EMPLOYEES CUT COST

87,000 New Yorkers Organize Co-operative Purchasing Societies.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Municipal employees of New York, numbering more than 87,000, have engaged in a concerted movement to reduce the cost of living by organizing co-operative purchasing societies in the various city departments, it became known tonight. So successful have been the first attempts to cut the cost of food by buying supplies in bulk and distributing them at prices far below those paid by the general public that recognition has been given the movement by the city government.

The Sinking Fund Commission today gave permission to the Employees' Conference Committee, as the organization is called, to use a room in the municipal building as headquarters for the purchase of food, clothing and other supplies.

MUNICIPAL RIGHT AT ISSUE

Idaho Legislature to Pass on Ownership Privileges.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The issue of jurisdiction on the part of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission over municipally-owned public utilities will be decided by the next Legislature rather than by the Supreme Court.

The tribunal has entered by the order dismissing the application for a writ of prohibition in the case of A. Cook against the City Council and Mayor of Coeur d'Alene. Mr. Cook sought to prohibit the holding of an election in the city of Coeur d'Alene to vote on bonds with which to raise funds to build a municipal light and water plant. He held the city had not secured a certificate of convenience and necessity from the Public Utilities Commission and was without authority to proceed.

By the introduction of ventilating devices, a lead smelter works in Hungary reduced the illness among its employees from 75 per cent to 3 per cent.

The Ben Selling Store News

Devoted to the Interest and Comfort of the Buyer of Men's and Boys' Apparel.

A Specialty Shop. Portland, Oregon, December 22, 1916. For Men and Boys.



SPECIAL!

Children's Overcoats

Reduced

\$5.00 and \$6.50 Overcoats at \$3.50

\$8.50 and \$10.00 Overcoats, at \$5.00

These are in good, warm fabrics; every age from 3 to 10 years.

A dandy present for the boys on Christmas morning. Make your selections today.

—Second Floor

Open Evenings Until Christmas.

Ben Selling

Leading Clothier Morrison at Fourth

THREE PROJECTS URGED

RECLAMATION COMMISSION MAKES REPORT TO LANE

Appropriations of \$400,000 Each for Malheur and Owyhee and \$200,000 for King Hill Recommended.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 21.—The Reclamation Commission today unanimously recommended to Secretary Lane that he urge on Congress the appropriation at this session of \$400,000 for the construction of the Warm Springs dam on the Malheur Irrigation project and that he further urge the appropriation of another \$400,000 to build the storage dam of the Owyhee project in Oregon.

Coupled with these recommendations was one favoring an appropriation of \$200,000 for the King Hill project in Idaho.

The Secretary probably will forward the papers, with his recommendation, to Congress on January 2. If the Secretary concurs in the opinion of the Reclamation Commission—and it is thought he will—and if Congress carries out that recommendation, there will be available next summer an amount sufficient to complete the dam on the Malheur project, which is all that is asked for the canals having already been built.

The \$400,000 for the Owyhee project, while ample for the dam, does not provide for canals and other distribution works. The King Hill, Idaho, appropriation asked is half of the amount necessary to put that project in finished condition.

The fact that the Reclamation Commission was unanimous in its recommendation based its report upon the surveys and estimates recently made in the field, is expected to bring from Secretary Lane his concurrence in their views.

WHEAT REGAINS GROUND

EUROPE BUYS HEAVILY WHEN PRICE BEGINS TO DROP.

Market Bewildered by Secretary Lansing's Statement, but Law of Demand Asserts Itself.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Notwithstanding almost panicky selling and 7 cents break in wheat prices today, the market made a greater rebound and closed strong, with substantial net gains.

Sudden merchandising demand on a vast scale to supply Europe with cheap wheat developed when prices tumbled sensationally. The ensuing high rally came with surprising force.

At the opening the sole consideration in the wheat pit was President Wilson's note calling on the warring governments to state terms on which they would accept peace. Unlimited quantities of wheat were thrown on the market the instant trading began, and values crashed downward until in a few minutes the decline of 7 cents a bushel had been reached. It was not long, though, before the fact was apparent.

HOTEL STEWART

SAN FRANCISCO

Geary Street, Just off Union Square

European Plan \$1.50 a day up

Breakfast 50c Lunch 50c Dinner \$1.00

Most Famous Meals in the United States

New steel and concrete structure. Center of theater, cafe and retail districts.

On carlines transferring all over city. Take Municipal car line direct to door.

Motor Bus meets trains and steamers.

Reduced Rates

New Perkins Hotel

FIFTH AND WASHINGTON STS.

"Where the City Life Centers."

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Jackson, who has served this country

Gifts the Boys Have You a Man Will Like to Buy for?

- Dressing gowns, sizes 3 to 16 years, \$2.50, \$4 and \$5. -Ruffneck and jersey sweaters, \$1.50 to \$5. -Flannel blouse waists, 50c, 75c and \$1.00. -Madras and percale waists, 50c and \$1.00. -Union suits, sizes 4 to 18 years, 50c to \$2.50. -Pajamas, muslin or flannel, sizes 4 to 18 years, \$1 and \$1.50. -Plaid ties in gift boxes, 25c. -Paris garters and arm bands in sets, 50c. -Suspenders in Christmas boxes, 35c. -Lined leather gauntlets, 75c. -Handkerchiefs in boxes, 3 for 25c. -Silk ties, 25c and 50c. -Cloth, felt and plush hats, 50c to \$2.00. -Leather belts, all colors, 50c. -Windsor ties, 25c and 50c. -Youths' shirts for detached collars, \$1 to \$3. -Cloth caps, 50c to \$1.50. -Special school stockings, fast black, 30c. -Children's kid gloves, tans and grays, \$1 and \$1.25. -Knitted toques, 25c and 50c. -Knitted gloves, 25c and 50c. -Leggings, all fabrics and colors, 50c to \$2.50.

—House coats, \$5 to \$20. —Dressing gowns, \$3.50 to \$30. —Mufflers, \$1 to \$3.50. —Silk hose, 50c to \$1. —Silk shirts, \$5 and \$6. —Silk pajamas, \$7.50. —Kid gloves, \$1.50 to \$3. —Auto gauntlets, \$5 and \$7. —Umbrellas, \$1.50 to \$6. —Initial handkerchiefs, 25c, 35c and 50c. —Hat orders, \$3, \$4 and \$5.



Silk Neckwear

Newest weaves and colorings in fine, soft silks

50c to \$4

Open Evenings Until Christmas.

ROSEBURG MAN CHOSEN

DR. A. C. SEEGLEY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HEALTH BOARD.

At Annual Session Proposed Legislative Programme and School Sanitation Are Discussed.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Dr. A. C. Seegley, of Roseburg, was elected president; Dr. M. B. Marcellus, of Portland, vice-president, and Dr. David N. Roburg, vice secretary at the annual meeting of the State Board of Health held here today.

The legislative programme suggested at the meeting included better sanitation in rural schools, more extensive work in infant hygiene and welfare, and an effort to obtain sufficient appropriations for field deputies to carry on the health board work.

In addition the secretary was instructed to draft rules to be sent to all county and city health officers covering the quarantining of communicable diseases and the matter will be brought before the Legislature, it is understood.

Particular stress was laid on the advisability of listing whooping cough as a communicable disease coming under the quarantine regulations. It was reported that 40 per cent of the absences in some schools investigated were kept out because of this disease.

Cottage Grove Grange Elects.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The Cottage Grove Grange selected the following officers at its meeting Saturday: Master, G. W. McFarland; overseer, S. K. Lewis; lecturer, Mrs. Julia Ashby; steward, W. E. Dorward; assistant steward, H. B. Yancy; lady assistant steward, Mrs. M. M. Wheeler; treasurer, M. M.

German Killed in Mongolia.

PEKIN, Dec. 21.—Three German army officers, a Captain and two Lieutenants, who escaped from a Siberian prison camp, have been killed by Russian soldiers, according to the Chinese Foreign Office.

Astoria Soap Company Organizes.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Articles of incorporation of the Astoria Soap Company were filed for record today. The incorporators are C. E. Beeman, A. W. Bathike, F. J. Koehler, E. L. Kimball and J. C. Osler, and the capital stock is \$25,000. The object of the incorporation is to engage in the manufacturing of soap and toilet articles, and the principal place of business will be in Astoria.

Prineville to Have Tree.

PRINEVILLE, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Prineville is to have a community Christmas tree this year. This has been arranged by the Commercial Club and ladies' annex, and the big fir tree has been placed on Main street. The tree is elaborately decorated and is illuminated at night, making quite a spectacular appearance. Children of Prineville and vicinity have been in-

600 BOYS AT CONFERENCES

Sessions Are Held at Corvallis, Baker at Pocatello.

Six hundred boys, representing 39 cities and towns of three states, attended older boys' conferences in Corvallis, Baker and Pocatello, Idaho, this month. J. H. Rudd, state Y. M. C. A.

Wheeler; secretary, L. J. Ardite; Ceres, Mrs. William Dorward; Pomona, S. K. Lewis; Flora, Mrs. G. W. McFarland.

boys' secretary, returned yesterday from the last conference at Pocatello, where delegates also were present from some Utah towns.

Portland's 100-foot illuminated Christmas tree at Sixth and Morrison streets, was described by Mr. Rudd to the blind students of the State School for the Deaf and Blind at Gooding, Idaho. At the invitation of Professor W. E. Taylor, Superintendent, Mr. Rudd made an address on the work of the conference. He also inspected the institution.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

QUALITY ABOUNDS In This Low-Priced PLAYER \$450 You may search the city over and not find as good a player piano as this at the price. You may pay \$150 more and yet not equal its quality. It is musically the finest player piano made at its price. It is mechanically the sturdiest, the most easily operated and controlled player that we have ever seen. The Euphonia Player Piano \$450. Easy Terms There is no field of music that is unexplored that is not open to you with the Euphonia. Liszt, Schubert, Chopin; in fact, every master work is within your reach. Musically and beautifully played. Turn to it for the latest in dance music or the newest popular songs. It renders them faultlessly and they are always obtainable at our Music Roll Department. The Euphonia is Teacher, Friend, Companion and Entertainer in one. It satisfies the skilled pianist, the singer, the player pianist. And it costs less in its quality than any player piano on the market. Your old piano in part payment. Your Money's Worth or Your Money Back The Wiley B. Allen Co. Mason & Hamlin Pianos, Victorolas and Records MORRISON STREET AT BROADWAY OTHER STORES—San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego and Other Coast Cities

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The Store of Style and Service Special Prices for Christmas OPEN EVENINGS HOLIDAY SHOE SPECIALS LADIES' BEAUTIFUL WHITE AND BLACK, WHITE AND TAN, TWO-TONE EFFECTS, in all shades; usually sold at \$7.00 to \$10.00 \$3.95 \$4.95 \$5.95 ENGLISH TYPE HIGH-CUT STREET BOOTS, worth to \$6.00 \$3.45 ENGLISH SPATS, in tan, white, or champagne \$1.45 COMFY SLIPPERS, all colors, the pair \$1.00 Evening Slippers Satin, patent and bronze \$2.50-\$2.95 Gold or Silver Pumps, the \$8.00 style, at \$4.95 A gift of a Merchandise Coupon from our store cannot fail to please. An easy and positive solution of "What to Give." DON'T FORGET THE ADDRESS 129 FOURTH, Between Washington and Alder BOSTON Sample Shoe Store

Fancy Oregon Turkeys CORN FED; No Cold-Storage Stock; Killed and Dressed on the Farm. Place Your Order Now for Christmas, to Arrive the 22d and 23d of December. THESE ALL-WEEK SPECIALS PRUNES. BUTTER. Fresh Creamery Butter, 75c two-pound cube at \$1.00. NUTS. Walnuts, Imported 1916 16c crop, per pound, \$1.00. 1916 crop, per pound, \$1.00. Filberts, Oregon very fancy 25c 1916 crop, per pound, \$1.00. RAISINS. Raisins, cluster, 2 1/2-pound 50c carton, per carton, \$1.00. Cluster Raisins, five-pound 99c box, per box, \$1.00. OLIVES. Queen Olives, bulk, per 40c quart at \$1.00. 1916 Crop, \$1.40 Per Gallon. ORDER SUNKIST ORANGES FROM YOUR FAVORITE STORE. JUNO COFFEE. GUARANTEES QUALITY AND PERFECTION IN BLENDING. A Splendid Coffee, constantly growing in flavor, and the most satisfying to the great majority of drinkers of high-grade coffee. Regular price 35c per pound. SPECIAL, PER POUND, 29c OR 3 1/2 POUNDS FOR \$1. Members of the Greater Portland Association. We Will Be Glad to Extend Credit to All Good People Who Will Kindly Furnish Portland References. Write for Monthly Price List. D. C. BURNS COMPANY. Wholesalers to Private Families, Hotels and Restaurants. 208-210 THIRD ST., BET. TAYLOR AND SALMON, ONE AND ONE-HALF BLOCKS SOUTH OF PUBLIC MARKET. SPECIAL MAIL ORDER SERVICE. WRITE FOR MONTHLY LIST.