

NEWELL DEFENDS INQUIRY OF PRICES

Committee Members Fair-minded, Women Told.

ACHEVEMENTS ARE RECALLED

Prevention of Increase in Portland Bread Prices Cited.

HEARINGS WILL CONTINUE

Investigation of Meat Prices Will Begin Today; Public Is Warned to Conserve Food.

Praise for the personnel of the fair-price committee and commendation of the work accomplished by the committee thus far in preventing an increase in the price of bread, was given by W. B. Newell, federal food administrator for the state of Oregon, who yesterday took up the gauntlet in defense of the committee recently appointed by him to investigate the food situation in Portland, and which had been criticized by Portland women as being unfair to the public and representative of "big business."

The fair-price committee, Mr. Newell declared, is composed of four representatives of the dealers, one producer and four representatives of the consumers—all persons of unquestioned integrity and fairness. The committee was appointed by Mr. Newell as a result of a recent telegram from A. Mitchell Palmer, attorney-general, and its composition was in line with the federal official's orders.

Co-operation is Invited. "The committee is composed of persons who are known to have the interests of the public at heart, Mr. Newell declared. "The committee already has spent a lot of time in the work and has mapped out work for the future which will keep all members busy. They are receiving not a cent of pay and are doing the work as a public-spirited service. Such being the case, I think they are entitled to the co-operation and thanks and not the abuse of the community."

In the telegram received from Mr. Palmer, the Oregon food administrator was asked to appoint a committee which would include "one retailer of groceries, one of drygoods, a representative of the producers, a representative of organized labor, a housewife, two or three representatives of the public generally, also a wholesaler when practical."

In making his selection Mr. Newell used, as a nucleus, the four investigators on the fair-price committee which had handled the situation during the war, naming three of that original committee upon the new fair price committee. Mr. Newell enumerated and commented upon his appointments yesterday as follows:

Appointments Are Defended. Thomas G. Farrell, of Everding & Farrell, representing the wholesalers, chairman of the committee—"A man who, as chairman of the price-fixing committee during the war did most splendid service."

Emil Gunther, Gunther & Hickey, representing the retail grocers, also a member of the original committee—"One of the most successful and fair-minded grocers in Portland."

J. C. Green, of the Green market, Yamhill street, representative of the retailers—"Another who demonstrated his fair-mindedness while acting on the committee during the war."

Thomas Roberts, Sr., of Roberts brothers, representative of the drygoods men—"A man who has served many times on arbitration boards and in whom the public has confidence."

Mr. Newell said the women had attacked these men as representative of "big business."

Balanced Committee Aim. "The other five members of the committee are as follows: Mr. George W. McMath, for a considerable period the president of the Oregon congress of mothers and a member of the Oregon vocational board, representing the public."

Mrs. H. B. Torrey, wife of Professor Torrey of Reed college, representing the public.

AUTO UPSETS NEAR SALEM; 1 DEAD, 3 HURT

MRS. VERNA MARKS OF MOUTH DIES INSTANTLY.

Driver of Party, on Way to Independence at Early Morning Hour, Loses Control of Machine.

INDEPENDENCE, Or., Aug. 24.—(Special.)—Mrs. Verna Marks of Mouth was killed instantly at 2 o'clock this morning when an automobile in which she and three others were riding, overturned on the Salem-Independence highway, two miles south of Salem. Al Vernon of Independence, driver, suffered bruises, though not serious. Miss Winifred Strom, Corvallis and Cloyd Hesley of Greenwood, in Polk county, were injured.

The party, which was on its way to Independence, had gone to Salem yesterday. After visiting and attending a theater, the four started home at a late hour. The survivors were unable to account for the accident, but said Mr. Vernon lost control of the machine, which overturned.

Mrs. Marks was crushed. Her body was taken to Salem early this morning. Miss Strom, Mr. Hesley and Mr. Vernon were brought to Independence.

SERGEANT YORK HAS RIVAL

Seattle Has "One-Man Army" That Achieved Results.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 24.—(Special.)—Seattle has a "one-man army" nearly, if not quite, the equal of Tennessee's Sergeant York. He is Swan Johnson, of 65 West Etruria street, formerly a sergeant in company G of the 16th infantry, first division. He has to his individual credit the capture of no less than 100 Germans, including an officer, several machine guns and a quantity of other material, all accomplished while he was suffering from three wounds, any one of which might have been fatal to a less hardy man. All this occurred during the second battle of the Marne, July 18, 1918.

A distinguished service cross was mailed to him recently, but nothing came with it to show his right to wear it. So he dropped into the recruiting station in Seattle today to find if he could not get something to show that he was entitled to wear the cross.

Questioned as to how he might have earned the medal, Johnson told of leading a squad of doughboys against machine gun nests, of being wounded three times and eventually compelling the Germans to surrender. Following the surrender he compelled the prisoners to carry him on a litter at the point of a gun to the American lines.

HILLSBORO MAN MISSING

George Reiser Last Seen July 8 After Discharge in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 24.—Army and civil officers have combined in a search for George Reiser, 29 years old, who has been missing since July 8, the day he was to depart to his home in Hillsboro, Or., it was announced today. Reiser, sergeant of company H of the 63d infantry, was discharged as cured from the Letterman general hospital at the Presidio and purchased a ticket to Hillsboro.

His nearest relative is his brother, Fred Reiser, at Sherwood, Or. George Reiser is described as 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 150 pounds.

SCHOONER AND 20 SINK

Francis A. Goes Down After Collision With Lord Downshire.

HALIFAX, N. S., Aug. 24.—The Yarmouth fishing schooner Francis A., with her captain, Percy Ross, and five of the crew of 19 men, went down in collision with the British freighter Lord Downshire during a heavy fog 100 miles south of Sable Island last night.

The freighter, bound from Baltimore for Belfast, send word by wireless today that she was bringing the survivors here.

The schooner was owned at Yarmouth and sailed from that port.

LEAGUE TO CHANGE SEAT

Geneva to Be Abandoned for Brussels to End Ill Feeling.

U. S. PURSUIT FORCE ENDS MEXICAN DASH

Troops Ordered Back to Border Patrol Duty.

BANDIT LEADER IS KILLED

American Officer Slays Outlaw Who Fires on Auto.

RAIN BLOTS OUT 'HOT TRAIL'

Mountain Storms Encountered by Pursuing Troops Cause Abandonment of Bandits' Chase.

MARFA, TEX. Aug. 24.—Troops of the American punitive expedition which crossed the Mexican border on Tuesday morning last, have been ordered to withdraw, Colonel George T. Langhorne announced at 4:30 o'clock today.

The troops are marching out of Mexico tonight, Colonel Langhorne announced. The first troops are expected to reach Laredo late tonight.

Colonel Langhorne said the American forces will resume their station tomorrow along the Rio Grande.

Aviators Reach Marfa.

Lieutenant Harold G. Peterson of Hutchinson, Minn., and Lieutenant Paul H. Davis of Strathmore, Cal., the American aviators whose capture by bandits was the immediate cause for sending American troops across the line, arrived at Royce flying field at 4:25 P. M. They crossed to Mexico with the punitive expedition Tuesday. Both are well.

Jesus Renteria, the bandit leader, was shot and killed by Lieutenant R. H. Cooper when bandits fired on Cooper's machine, according to Lieutenant Harold G. Peterson, who reached here tonight.

Peterson's report that Jesus Renteria had been killed failed to check with reports at military headquarters. An official army report said Jesus Renteria was believed to have been located 60 miles south of Chihuahua City, where he was said to be hiding.

Peterson said he received his information that Renteria had been killed from scouts.

Bandit Reported Killed.

"Two bandits were being pursued yesterday to ranchers along the route that Jesus Renteria had been killed when Lieutenant Cooper returned the rifle fire of three horsemen," he said. "The ranchers, in turn, informed our scouts."

The Americans were hot on the trail of the bandit gang last night with the intention of continuing the pursuit all night, Lieutenant Peterson said. He said he accompanied a scout patrol which was endeavoring to follow the bandits and they encountered a Car-

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ERUPTION KILLS FISH IN KLAMATH WATERS

DIAMOND LAKE, ANGLERS' FAVORITE HAUNT, DISCOLORED.

10-CENT COFFEE FLOUTED

Advance From Nickel Unjustified, Declares U. S. Attorney.

UKRAINE TROOPS ADVANCE

All of Podulia and Large Parts of Volhynia Are Taken.

CHOLERA THREATENS TOKIO

Infection Reported to Have Been Carried From Shanghai.

HONOLULU, Aug. 24.—A Tokio cable to the Hawaii Shippo says an epidemic of cholera is threatening Tokio.

Several cases have been reported. The infection, the cable said, was brought to Tokio from Shanghai.

CHAMBERLAIN BILL RAPPED

General Kernan Concedes That Trial Judges May Not Always Be Competent and Advises New Study.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—In approving the report submitted to him by Major-General Francis J. Kernan, head of the special war department board on courts-martial and their procedure, Secretary Baker today took the official stand that the present system should not be changed except in minor details.

Inferentially, the secretary upheld General Kernan's view that "courts-martial have always been agencies for creating and maintaining the discipline of armies" rather than agencies for the "nice interpretation of technical rules of law."

The war board's report reflected the opinion of 235 officers who were circled. More than half of these gave hearty approval to the present system, 45 condemned it as basically wrong and the remainder, a total of 67, pointed out specific weaknesses, which they thought should be remedied.

Judges Not Competent. The most serious defect in the existing system, the report asserts, arises from "the lack of competent trial judge advocates and counsel," and as a remedy it is recommended that defense counsel be appointed for each general and special court-martial and that special inducements be offered young officers to study law in order that they may be fitted.

"It is noticeable," the report said, "that officers who served with fighting units are as a class favorable to the present articles; on the other hand, officers whose duties kept them remote from the scenes of battle, view the system with a more critical eye."

Declaring that the "sovereign" remedy proposed by the most pronounced critics is to transfer administration to those who are lawyers first and soldiers by courtesy only, General Kernan expressed the opinion that this would make it impossible for the commander to obtain among his troops the necessary discipline to military success which is the "first purpose of an army."

Chamberlain Bill Attacked. The report criticizes the pending Chamberlain bill which would take from the president and the war department heads the power to review courts-martial findings and place appeal "in

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MILITARY COURTS UPHELD BY BAKER

Only Minor Changes Are Needed, Says Report.

SEVERE PENALTIES INDORSED

Idea of Enlisted Men Sitting on Board Horrifies General.

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FRANCE DECORATES MAJOR W. S. GILBERT

CHAPLAIN KEEPS MORALE OF TROOPS AT HIGH LEVEL.

PORTLAND SPRUCE PROBE LOOMS BIG

All Transactions to Come Up for Scrutiny.

SEATTLE HEARING NEAR CLOSE

Colonel Stearns Avers Full Inquiry Is Welcomed.

COST-PLUS PLAN IS RAPPED

Officers Reply to Accusations of Extravagance by Citing Need of Hurrying Work.

(BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.) SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 24.—(Special.)—With a mass of testimony already entered in its records, most of which is strongly condemnatory of the methods pursued and the contracts made by the Spruce Production corporation and Brigadier-General Bruce P. Disque, its former chief in producing airplane spruce and fir, the house subcommittee of investigation will reconvene Tuesday morning to complete its Seattle hearing. It is probable that the committee will summon several more witnesses, and that it may not conclude its local inquiry before Wednesday or Thursday night, when the members expect to leave for Portland.

Inquiry to Be Extensive. The Portland probe is to be far the more extensive of the series, inasmuch as all of the records of the Spruce Production corporation and division will then be available at headquarters. The entire transactions of the spruce division, from the time that America called for airplane stock to the signing of the armistice and the adjustment of contracts, will be thoroughly examined.

Colonel C. F. Stearns, president of the Spruce Production corporation and commander of operations, who has ceased General Disque, and who has been a witness here, declares that he and his fellow officers welcome the opportunity to place their witnesses before the congressional board of inquiry.

TACKS AVENGE SPEEDER

Motorcycle Officer Gets Puncture in Chase on East 82d Street.

Some disgruntled speeder who has been heavily fined in police court is believed to be responsible for a large number of tacks which were found by Motorcycle Policeman Bert yesterday along East Eighty-second street, where the motorcycle officers lay in wait for violators of the traffic laws.

The speed "cop" started after a speeder late Saturday but was forced to give up the chase because of a punctured tire. Upon investigation he found a large quantity of tacks in places where the motorcycle officers hide their machines while waiting for passing speeders.

BRITISH SOLDIERS MUTINY

Three Hundred Arrested for Refusing to Obey Orders.

LONDON, Aug. 23.—Three hundred soldiers, engaging to Warwick, Berkshire and Gloucester regiments were arrested today at Southampton for refusing to obey orders to embark for France.

The soldiers, who had been on leave, are for the most part veterans. They objected to embarking because they had heard that they would be sent to the Black Sea after their arrival in France, whereas they had received promises that no one would be sent to Russia, unless he volunteered. A war office statement tonight says that the men were being sent to Turkey, not Russia.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S maximum temperature, 92.2 degrees; minimum 61.6 degrees. TODAY'S—Fair, continued warm; gentle northerly winds.

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Foreign. Allied note to Hungary demands real republic. Page 6. Herbert Hoover demands allies act firmly on Hungarian situation. Page 2.

Pacific Northwest. Portland spruce inquiry to be most thorough when state opens near Salem. Page 1. Slayer of husband succumbs to grief. Page 7. Tremble rise in Idaho tax is denied. Page 7.

Sports. Pacific Coast League results: Portland 5-2; Vernon 8-0; Seattle 6-4; Oakland 0-0; Sacramento 1-0; Los Angeles 6-1; Salt Lake 2-1; San Francisco 2-2. Page 10. High-priced coaches are due for overthrow. Dr. Browns of O. A. C. contends. Page 10. Abe Attell hears buzz of come-back bid. Page 10.

Cincinnati and Chicago maintain lead in National and American league races. Page 10.

Portland and Vicinity. Lieutenant A. E. Easterbrook, northwest ace, visits Portland friends. Page 17. Oregon bankers report steady increase in business. Page 17. Rev. F. O. Belden extols reign of King David as most influential. Page 18. Eighteen graduate from training ship Iris in harbor. Page 12. Formation of police union promises fight with city officials. Page 18. Food administrator defends activities of fair-price committee. Page 1. Fleet welcome here will be royal affair. Page 11. Cost of fighting forest fires in this district to date totals \$150,000. Page 12. School board session tonight, expected to sizzle. Page 13.

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