

REAL BAN ON SUGAR PROFITEER SOUGHT

Complete Control of Prices and Distribution Urged.

SENATE VIEWS PROBLEM

Equalization Board President Declares McNary Bill Does Not Carry Adequate Authority.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Complete government control of prices and distribution of sugar is necessary for the protection of the consumer, the equalization board president declared today before the house agricultural committee. At the same time A. Zabrackie, president of the sugar equalization board, advised the committee that continuance of the board would be useless unless it received control over prices and distribution. These powers, Zabrackie pointed out in a telegram to the committee, are not included in the pending McNary bill.

Opposition to the McNary bill, passed last week by the senate, led to an informal agreement among committee members and house leaders to eliminate from the measure the provision repealing the licensing powers of the government as conferred by the food control act.

Early Action Is Proposed.

Chairman Haugen said formal action would be taken tomorrow, under a plan calling for early action by the house. Leaders, however, were doubtful whether the bill, if amended, could be finally disposed of by congress before the holiday recess.

Sugar Embargo Proposed.

Advocates of broad government control as well as the purchase of the Cuban crop told the committee that "sky high prices" were threatened and that the mere purchase of the Cuban crop only would aid profiteers by increasing the supply.

For the first ten months of this year almost a billion and one-quarter pounds of sugar have been exported from this country, said Representative Dullinger, citing the equalization board as authority.

COLD SPELL IS WANING

(Continued From First Page.)

danger, though rain may be expected. "In my judgment the ordinary winter rain of Oregon would not create flood conditions. It would reduce the snow to half its normal depth and the slush itself would retard the flow of the water to the streams, aiding in the gradual disappearance of the snow. Only a heavy, warm downpour need be feared. A sudden change to actual weather, while it would send the snow off rapidly, need cause no apprehension. The river would rise rapidly, but would subside sufficiently to bring about a flood.

WHEAT ACREAGE SMALLER

Agricultural Department Estimates 11,719,000 Less Than 1918.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A decided decrease in the acreage planted for winter wheat this fall is shown in first estimates today by the department of agriculture. The total of 28,790,000 acres is 11,719,000 less than the record acreage in 1918.

Fuel Deliveries Increase.

Fuel deliveries increased yesterday with the reduction of the snow drifts in residential districts, but it is still far from normal and will remain so until vehicle motor traffic in the by-streets is practicable—as it will be only when the snow has passed practically away. Dealers were continuing their policy of making deliveries wherever possible, and getting through through some where hardship was reported from lack of fuel.

Milk Loss Is Regretted.

"I wouldn't care about the truck," said the driver, as he surveyed the wreckage, where the snow was slushy with the precious lactical fluid, "but it's tough to lose all this milk. If you'd heard the little kid crying and crying for it, as I have, you'd feel just the same."

Central Heating Plant.

Central heating plant, the cold-weather suspension of which brought frigid home atmospheres to Westover Terrace residences, is again running normally, with a full supply of fuel oil. Satisfactory service had been resumed yesterday to all patrons, with the exception of those where the residents had neglected to turn off the water when the system was closed down owing to the bursting of mains. Failure of the system to turn off the water when the mains burst and when their homes were invaded by the frost is said to be entirely responsible for the several heating difficulties that now remain along the system.

Downtown Area Cleared.

Except for the truckage slush and the snow that is continually being dumped from the roofs of office and

RETENTION OF ROADS EXPECTED OF WILSON

Message Will Be Presented to Congress Today.

CUMMINS PRESSES BILL

Disaster to Lines Predicted if Laws Are Not Enacted Before Return to Private Owners.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A rumor of wide circulation in Washington tonight was that in a special message to congress tomorrow President Wilson would say the failure of the republican majority in the senate to satisfy the peace treaty has left the country technically at war, therefore preventing his return of the railroads to their owners on January 1.

Plumbers Flooded With Work.

Inasmuch as every plumber in Portland has a long waiting list of homes, where the cold wrought severe damage to water pipes, in many instances will not be possible for several days. Now that thawing temperatures are at hand, they are busy on avoiding further damage, due to leakage when the broken pipes thaw and the consequent running of water.

FIRE BUILDERS INJURED

STOVE EXPLOSION RESULTS IN DAMAGE TO HOMES.

Farm House Totally Destroyed and Owner Badly Burned—Woman Has Narrow Escape.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—The farm house and outbuildings of Warren Mowbray, of the upper Wynoche, were completely destroyed by fire yesterday. The fire, which was of unknown origin, started in a clothes closet. Mowbray was badly burned in an endeavor to save a part of his household goods.

An attempt to start a kitchen fire with gasoline resulted in G. E. Anderson, a Cosmopolis mill worker, being seriously burned about the legs and hands Saturday night and also started a fire that completely destroyed his two-room house and blew the explosion which followed the ignition of the gasoline into the kitchen through a window. Neighbors who heard the explosion rushed to the rescue. The gasoline was used by mistake, Anderson believing he had a can containing kerosene. He is expected to recover.

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MEN'S WEAR

Grange to Continue Meeting. Owing to the condition of the roads Multnomah Pomona Grange will hold only a formal meeting tomorrow, at Evening Star hall. According to J. J. Johnson, master, the meeting will be continued to a future date, probably March 17, 1920. Australia is about to exploit vast deposits of matted seaweed suitable for insulating steam pipes and refrigerating plants, of which it is believed 4,500,000 tons, dry weight, can be obtained.

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