

PRICES GO TO DIZZY HEIGHTS IN 2 YEARS

Food Cost Is Doubled and Even Trebled in Many Items of Necessary Products.

MILK SITUATION IS GRAVE

Advance of Milked and Poor Pasture Due to Drouth Lead to Report That Many Dairymen Consider Retirement.

Advances in food prices, by comparison with the quotations prevalent in the same months of 1915, show a tremendous increase in all staples, in some instances doubling and tripling the normal figure.

In the year 1915 flour sold at \$5.90, an even-keeled price on the tide of commerce. It is now quoted at \$11.40, or lacking but a few cents of doubling the former quotation.

Two years ago breakfast ham was procurable at 20 cents per pound. It is now 28 cents. Bacon in other days was 25 cents. It has increased almost 50 per cent and now is 37 cents.

Armies fight on beans, according to custom and fact. Hence there is naught of surprise in the fact that 300 pounds of beans selling for \$6 two short years ago, now commands \$16 and are hard to find. The wary ones who watched the war and the bean crop cleaned handsomely by their foresight.

Sugar Advance Is Big. Sugar was quoted at \$5.50 in 1915. Nothing less than \$8.25 is the wholesale quotation of today and the retailer sells it at a trifling advance of 10 cents per 100 pounds.

An inferior brand of milk, a favorite brand of which sold for \$2.45 to \$2.90 per case in 1915 is now \$5.80, and the little cans that once retailed for a nickel are pushed to the retailer for a dime. The deterioration of milk is wrapped in the same parcel with the advance of milkfeed.

The advance of milkfeed varies from 25 to 50 per cent. Ten quotations for the present are: Shorts, \$28.50; bran, \$22; middlings, \$12. Full comprehension of these advances is gained by comparison with the quotation of 1915 on rolled oats, the bulk breakfast dish, which was then quoted at \$25.50 per ton, or considerably less than stockfeed now commands.

When milkfeed soared the dairymen became despondent in many instances. So little profit remained that he yielded to the prevailing high prices for meat and slaughtered his herds for the butcher block. Milk leaped up the price scale.

England Grabs for Surplus. Yet the manufacturers of canned milk were fighting to keep the price down. The purchasing agents of the allies, notably England, were desperately striving for a food surplus. They sought condensed milk whenever they could find it, for it is a simple matter to extract butterfat from the canned article.

The condensed milk manufacturers denied the allied agents anything but their surplus of production over home consumption. Whereupon the wily agents sought out the small retailer. They told him they would pay an advance of 50 cents a case on the cans of milk he could deliver to them. The retail grocers, in many instances, ordered cases of condensed milk and passed them along to the purchasing agents, netting a profit of \$4 on every 10 cases so handled. In defense, it is contended, the manufacturers were reluctantly forced to raise the price.

Because farm laborers in Maryland and other Southern states left the produce fields to work for higher wages in munition factories, the price of canned vegetable staples rocketed, it is declared. Maryland and neighboring states produce much of the staple vegetable crop for canning. Caught by the consequent labor shortage, growers were made to pay higher wages and to curtail their production.

Peas Now \$3 Per Dozen Cans. That dozen cans, which sold for \$1.30 per dozen cans in 1915, now sell for \$3 was one result to which this situation came. The price of peas in 1915 for 75 cents to 90 cents per dozen cans, now bring \$1.50.

Portland may soon be deprived of an important part of its fresh milk supply. In the recent report of Dr. D. W. Mack, chief of the city's milk inspection bureau, the conditions confronting dealers and dairymen are presented as serious, and rumor is prevalent that some dairymen may retire from the business.

The high price and scarcity of feed and labor and the scarcity of pasture, owing to the prolonged dry spell, leave no profit in the production of milk, say the dairymen. It is declared that the cost of production, raw material alone considered, has increased 8 cents per gallon. The normal retail price of milk is 10 cents per quart. It is now selling for 13 cents.

Pessimism at the outlook was discounted by at least one authority on milk production, however. He declared that the fall rains will work wonders with the milk supply and afford fine pasturage to relieve the scarcity before dairymen are forced to the extreme measure of discontinuing.

WATER USERS ARE UPHELD

Public Service Commission Decides Against Northwest Trust Co.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 4.—(Special.)—In the first irrigation controversy to come before the Oregon Public Service Commission, water users of the Sutherland Valley, in Douglas County, were upheld in an order issued today. The case is that of H. E. Merriam et al, plaintiffs, against the J. F. Luse Company, by W. E. St. John, receiver, defendant, and the Northwest Trust Company, of St. Paul, and Ira C. Ohler, trustees, as intervenors.

The plaintiffs are granted a reduction to \$1 an acre from \$3.50 an acre, charged as maintenance fee for 1916-1915 of the 3859 acres in the project, and from \$2.50 an acre, which has been charged for the balance, except land owned by the defendant.

PERSONAL MENTION.

F. H. Moore, of Dallas, is at the Oregon. H. L. Smith is at the Oregon from Seattle. J. D. Springer is at the Perkins from Boise. H. M. Stevens is at the Seward from Boise. G. E. Canle is at the Imperial from Camas. Late Wolf, of Pendleton, is at the Carlton. H. Bornsted is at the Nortonia from Maupin. Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Allen and Mrs. W. H. Howard are members of a party

BOYS TELL OF RAID

Letter Received in Portland From London Children.

BOMBS CAUSE OF TERROR

Air Attack Lasts Half Hour and Writers Speak of It as "Dreadful"—Older Children Sing to Keep Noise From Little Ones.

NEPHEWS OF MR. AND MRS. H. A. BROWN, OF PORTLAND, WHO WROTE THRILLING DESCRIPTION OF LONDON AIR RAID.

Two letters, written by Morris and Ernest Leton, aged 19 and 8 years, respectively, and addressed to their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Brown, 252 Alder street, have just been received in Portland from London. In simple and intensely interesting manner they tell the story of a recent air

raid on London, during which bombs were dropped perilously close to the schools which the boys attend.

Morris wrote as follows: "Dear Grandpa and Grandma—We received your postcard yesterday and, as you are anxious about the air raid, I will tell you all I can.

"We were doing our lessons in school when, about 11:30, we heard a big explosion. At once we rushed downstairs into our shed and were huddled up in a corner. All the time we heard bombs dropping all around us. In fact, one dropped just opposite our school, but luckily it did not touch us.

"Other ones sang loudly. "Our master told us to sing, and we at once started singing at the top of our voices, so that the youngsters should not hear the noise. Indeed, we were very lucky to escape unharmed, as bombs were dropping all around us. I must not mention places, because the censor will be sure to cross it out. At any rate, as long as we are all right it doesn't matter.

"I hope the war will soon be over, for then you will come to England. But you will find a very different England than what you went away from. Instead of parks, you will find potato plots, and everywhere you go you find some signs of the war. We were growing some flowers in our windows, but I believe the air raids have frightened them, for they have all died away."

Children Say Prayers. And here is Ernest's contribution: "I am answering to your postcard about the dreadful air raid that occurred in London on Wednesday. I am in a different school than 'Morris' and can write different. We were all working hard on that fatal day, when we were alarmed by hearing the first bomb drop. We at once got away from the windows and said our prayers. Then we kept silent, every minute expecting a bomb to fall into the classroom. The windows rattled as if in fear and many were cracked. A teacher was also very frightened and went pale.

"It began at 11:30 and finished at 12. Thank God, we are all right and no one (of us) is hurt. Mamma caught a terrific fright without us with her. There were many people killed and injured and much damage done.

The Letons have now moved to Windsor, about 20 miles west of London, a much safer place, as the raids never go beyond London.

SCORE ON CAMPING TRIP

PORTLAND MEN IN PARTY GOING TO CLEAR LAKE.

Start Is Made From Lebanon for Cascadia and Summit of Cascades on Santiam Pass.

LEBANON, Or., Aug. 4.—(Special.)—About 20 men left Lebanon this morning for Cascadia and Clear Lake, at the summit of the Cascades on the South Santiam Pass from the Willamette Valley to Central Oregon, on a camping trip. About half the party will go only to Cascadia, which will be made by automobiles.

Those going to the lake are Dr. Higgins, engineer for the forestry department; J. C. Peterson, George H. Cecil, C. J. Buck, of the Forestry Service; C. C. Hall, of the Santiam Forest Reserve; M. G. Nease, timber dealer, of Portland; J. C. Miller, of Linn County; C. H. Stewart, of Albany; M. G. Nye, representing the Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company.

Among those who will go only to Cascadia are W. P. Woodward, a King Wilson, W. H. Crawford, E. E. Larrimore, Dr. E. Hedlund, Addison Bennett, Louis I. Herz and M. A. Miller, all of Portland, and District Attorney Gale S. Hill, of Albany, and a number of Lebanon men.

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Noel Sullivan Off to France to Drive Ammunition Truck.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 4.—Noel Sullivan, nephew of Senator James D. Phelan, of California, left here late today for France, where he will drive an ammunition motor truck for the French government. He will pay his own expenses.

Sullivan, who is 28, is a well-known San Francisco organist and musician. He gave a recital for the Red Cross recently.

Young Sullivan was in Germany when war was declared. He was interned for a short time, later going to Paris. His draft number was not among the first quota called for service and he decided not to wait to be called for the second National Army to see duty at the front.

FIRES NEAR VIDA ALARM

Blazes Break Out in Woods and Incendiarism Is Feared.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 4.—(Special.)—Residents of the vicinity of Vida and Wadsworth are in a state of excitement as the result of four fires started in the timber between the two villages about dusk last night. One of the fires, Indian Creek, had spread over about 40 acres of slashings and was burning in the green timber today.

"Frank Willis, a farmer, who came to Eugene from Vida this afternoon, said the farmers in that neighborhood suspected incendiarism. Fire Guard Swanson and a force of men are engaged in fighting the fire on Indian Creek. The distance from Vida to Wadsworth is about 19 miles.

FIRM NOT ACTUALLY SUED

Partners Named to Make Action Legal, Says George W. Ingram.

George W. Ingram, plaintiff in a \$10,000 breach of contract suit against the United Brokers Company, John Walgren and Al Henneman, explained yesterday that his relations with the United Brokers Company in every way were satisfactory, and he was compelled to name them as defendants in his suit against Mr. Ingram in order that his complaint might be drawn properly and legally.

His action, he said, is against Mr.

TEACHER HAS YEAR OFF

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR TO TAKE COMMERCIAL POST IN EAST.

Dean Morton Excused on Theory That Year's Experience Will Be for Good of School.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 4.—(Special.)—D. Walter Morton, dean of the school of commerce at the University of Oregon, was today granted a leave of absence from the college for the school year of 1917-1918. He has accepted a position with a large Boston concern and in connection with his work in that city will leave for the East Tuesday and take up the duties of his new position immediately upon his arrival.

President Campbell, in recommending that Dean Morton be granted a leave of absence, said he believed Mr. Morton's work in the East would give him an opportunity to develop himself along the line of commercial practices and mean a stronger faculty at the university for the year 1918-1919.

For the year opening October 1, the work of the school it is expected will be in charge of Professor C. C. Jeremiah, graduate of the Wharton School of Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania, who has had three years of educational work in eastern institutions and who was chosen a member of the Oregon faculty in June.

President Campbell believes the school of commerce teaching force will be further strengthened by the addition of C. C. Edmunds, of Madison, Wis. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin and the New York university. He has had experience both as an engineer and as an expert in commerce. He has lately been engaged at the United States arsenal at Springfield, Ill., assisting in the work of speeding up the preparation of supplies for the Army.

A great deal of ingenuity has been expended on the design and construction of lunch boxes to be stored away in automobiles for picnic use.

EDITORS OF THE HUSTLER, NEW PUBLICATION ISSUED BY THE OREGONIAN NIGHT HUSTLERS' CLUB.

MORRIS AND ERNEST LETON.

OREGONIAN NEWSIES IS CREDITABLE PUBLICATION.

First Edition of Club's Organ Is Dedicated to Mayor Baker, Long Friend of Youngsters.

The first issue of The Hustler, official organ of The Oregonian Night Hustlers' Club, is off the press and is highly creditable to its staff of newsboy enthusiasts.

The Hustler is a 16-page brochure replete with gossip of the profession, original compositions and a general spirit of exuberant liveliness. Its editor is Sam H. Wilderman, otherwise "Shakespeare," whose nightly stand is at Second and Alder streets. Samuel H. Gordon, known to his intimates as "Cincinnati," is associate editor.

Of the numerous features of the current issue, the most meritorily excursion into fancy is, perhaps, the short story, "On Battle Field," by Sam Wilderman. Yet critics may feel, after careful perusal that Abe Hirsch's offer "Meeting a Tramp," has not been given a square deal in this appraisal. Both are good reading.

The initial issue is dedicated to George L. Baker, Mayor of Portland, with the following appreciation of his friendship for the newsboys: "For many years Mr. Baker, as a private citizen, and as an official in civic life, has always shown his interest in the affairs of the newsboys and for the principles for which they stand. The editors of The Hustler take pleasure in thus recognizing, publicly, their appreciation of his efforts in the newsboys' behalf."

The venture is fairly well patronized by advertisers and is launched with a circulation of 2000. It sells for 5 cents per copy and yearly subscriptions are priced at 50 cents.

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MAXWELL Most Miles per Gallon Most Miles on Tires In our \$5,000 dealers' gasoline economy contest in May, 1917, 1092 Maxwells averaged 27.15 miles on one gallon each. In our \$50,000 owners' contest in June, 1917, 2040 Maxwells averaged 29.04 on one gallon each. And every car used was an owner's car in everyday service. This great mileage showing proves one fact absolutely. The Maxwell IS mechanically right! —in its wonderful motor; in its wear-proof, efficient clutch, running in oil; in its simple, trouble-proof transmissions; in its mighty axles, and in every mechanical detail. Touring Car \$745 Roadster \$745; Town Car \$1095; Sedan \$1095. All prices f. o. b. Detroit. C. L. Boss Automobile Co. 615-617 Washington St.

MEN! Get Aboard for the Shoe Sale —Here are hundreds of pairs of fine, stylish shoes and Oxfords—all to be sold under regular prices. Buy now, men, for a year to come. Men's Shoes in tan Russia calf in Hanan's make; Blucher or button. Splendid all-the-year-round shoes; in \$8.95 nobby styles. Reduced to... 250 pairs Men's Shoes in black vici kid, kangaroo or calf; Blucher, lace or button; Goodyear welt single \$4.95 soles. All toes. Reduced to... Men's Oxfords in gunmetal or tan Russia calf; just the footwear for midsummer and Fall comfort. Every pair is under-price. Reduced to \$3.95, \$5.95 \$4.95 and... We need additional shoe salesmen. We want men of experience, courteous and of good appearance. Last Week of Shoe Sale Women's Stylish Footwear Reduced —Now, ladies, is your final opportunity to buy these fine Shoes and Oxfords below their value—lower, in fact, than we could now buy them for ourselves. —Bear in mind that these are some of the finest shoes that it is possible to manufacture—and that every pair is deeply underpriced. 100 pairs Women's Shoes in gunmetal or patent colt in lace or button; Cuban-French heels in leather or wood. Sizes 2 1/2 to 4 1/2. Reduced to... \$2.95 300 pairs young women's and growing girls' Shoes in gunmetal or patent colt; lace or button; oak welt soles. All widths in sizes 2 1/2 to 7. Reduced to... \$3.95 Women's Pumps and Colonials in gunmetal or patent calf in Hanan or Laird-Schober & Co.'s make; welt soles, military or Cuban-French heels. Reduced to... \$5.95 Women's Blucher Oxfords in gunmetal, tan Russia calf or patent colt in Hanan's make. These are very desirable for outdoor walking. Reduced to... \$4.95 Rosenthal's PORTLAND'S BEST SHOE STORE 129 Tenth Street, bet. Washington and Alder S. & H. Trading Stamps.

Sam H. Wilderman, Editor Sam H. Gordon, Assistant Editor