

PRESIDENT BLAMED FOR HIGH LIVING COST

Neglect of Duties at Home Charged by Solons.

WASHINGTON IN UGLY MOOD

Republicans and Democrats Denounce Wilson for Order Keeping Congress on Job.

(Continued From First Page)

him early in the war, and his control of the food situation, like the railroad management and several other important problems, is supreme.

True, complaints are all that has been accomplished to reduce the cost of living in compelling the secretary of war to dispose of the thousands of tons of foodstuffs held in depot warehouses. The holding of this food, it is pointed out, constituted one monstrous corner of foodstuffs, which made it possible for dealers to hold up the prices.

Easy on Profiteers is Slogan.

All that was done by the administration, and Mr. Wilson's personal responsibility for every act of his secretary of war, was in the direction of maintaining the war prices. It was no secret that the government was holding back all this food because of a fear of break in the market, which is a favorite phrase for cloaking a desire to go easy with the profiteers.

It is a well-known fact that the plan of the administration was to slip the bulk of this food to the market at the price which was paid for it, and there was nothing to prevent the dealer in turn from selling again at his own figure.

Great quantities of food products already have been returned to the canners and the wholesalers at the prices paid by the government, and there has been no ripple in the market except that the prices may have gone up. It has been from the large industrial centers have been clamoring for foods the government has steadfastly withheld in storehouses in all sections of the country that the profiteers have been making their money.

Neglect at Home Charged.

Every day of the period food has been withheld the administration had the power to order its distribution in a way to benefit the consumer. The criticism heard among both democrats and republicans since yesterday afternoon the president has been away concerning himself with foreign questions when he was more needed at home to direct the solutions of domestic problems. Certain absolute war powers were conferred upon him to deal with almost every economic question which confronts the country.

Prices Highest in East.

On the Pacific coast it will be difficult to appreciate the exact condition in the east. In pioneer days the frontier country of "high prices, but there appeared to be some reason for the price because most of the food was shipped into the country from the west. So it was in the Klondike during the gold rush of '97 and '98, but the Klondike prospector never went away from his prospecting a pound for tomatoes grown on the adjoining claim. Tomatoes have been selling at that price in Washington and the other vegetable season, and potatoes and other vegetables grown just outside the District of Columbia have correspondingly high prices. Meats of all qualities are selling in Washington at prices about 65 per cent higher than Portland, Or. The difference is greater, eastern cities the difference is greater.

Cummings Sees Ureart.

But Washington has an inside story as to the cause for the president's unexpected action yesterday. He was asked to stay in session, which has not been widely published. This morning's dispatches said that the president acted upon the representations made to him by the railroad labor organizations regarding the desperately increased cost of living. Everywhere he traveled from Washington he has been told that few days ago he gave the White House an entirely different story from the interview published in the newspapers. Cummings is said to have told the president that there was no use to dodge the facts regarding the attitude of the public mind. Everywhere he traveled from east, middle west and west he found the same general complaint that the democratic party had made a mess of things.

The high taxes and high cost of living were grievances to which he had to listen wherever he traveled, and the voters appeared only to be waiting for the first opportunity to smash the party which has been running things for the last six years. He found that the democratic party has not taken the credit for winning the war, as was the boast of Mr. McAdoo. The fathers and mothers of the country were also inclined to let that party carry the burden of blame for the brutalities and all sorts of injustices practiced against their sons while in the service.

Wilson Hears Disheartening Tale.

The story is that at no point were there any delegations of returned soldiers out to meet Mr. Cummings, and the whole disheartening tale was poured into the ears of Mr. Wilson. It was not a pleasant thing to tell, but the national democratic chairman thought it wise to be candid. He told the president that the country was roundly dissatisfied with the cabinet and that while at one time the people had been willing to overlook Burleson, Baker and one or two others whom they regarded as menaces to the well being of the nation, their patience had become exhausted.

A special writer with a keen insight into what happened some up the White House conference with Cummings in the Washington Post as follows:

"The impression has gone out that Homer Cummings, held marshal of the democratic national forces, made a favorable report to the commander-in-chief at the White House conference this week. The impression is mistaken. The report was anything but favorable, except as a fire alarm is a favorable indication that a conflagration is to be tackled and stopped if possible. Chairman Cummings did not swing around the country to be deceived, but to learn the truth. What he learned is what other cunning politicians have learned, which is this: The country is out of temper for various causes and is blaming everything upon the government."

Probe Uncovers Problems.

"Before seeing President Wilson Chairman Cummings conferred with most of the democratic state chairmen and checked up his opinions with theirs. The confidential opinion was all one way. Thereupon Mr. Cummings went to the White House and told Mr. Wilson the exact truth as he saw it. From that time there has been a perceptible change in the president's plan of action. He is concentrating his attention upon the domestic questions. As they have been mismanaged or neglected by his cabinet the deeper he probes into these questions the more he finds to do."

David Lawrence, long reputed to be the official interpreter of the White House, writes boldly that the opposition to the league of nations has gained much of its momentum from the disarray of the democratic party and democratic administration has fallen before the people. This is shown here in Washington, where a poll being taken by the Washington Post and the people of the District of Columbia, 80 per cent of whom work for the government or are dependent upon it reveals that the present league of nations covenant has few friends. Out of a total poll of 1794 votes cast up to yesterday for or against the league, 1423 change, 443 for the league with reservations and 208 opposed to any league.

This is believed not to be due to a stilled conviction as to the principles involved, but because of the general tendency to question any proposals advanced by Mr. Wilson. Just let a three-line notice appear in either morning paper that Lodge, Borah, Knox or some other anti-league man will speak that day in the senate and the senate gallery will be packed and jammed long before the stated meeting. When the crowd leaves the expressions indicate that it was made up of individuals who came to the capitol willing and anxious to be convinced.

It will be several days before congress can take any action upon the lines suggested by Mr. Wilson because the committee which have the needed legislation in hand will need some time to work out constructive plans.

BETTER BUSINESS SOUGHT

AD CLUB TO LAUNCH BATTLE FOR CLEAN ADVERTISING.

Week Is Set Aside for Campaign to Interest Merchants in Value of Honest Methods.

An intensified campaign to make Portland one of the cleanest cities in America in the general field of advertising will be conducted by the Portland Ad Club during the week of August 11 to 16, inclusive. It will be known as "Better Business Bureau week" and its purpose will be to show the thousands of business men in the city, the great majority of whom are women, just what an active, aggressive and public-spirited organization like the ad club can accomplish in abolishing fraud in advertising and in protecting the shopping public against misrepresentation.

The Portland Ad club is one of the pioneer organizations in the United States in tackling this serious and delicate problem, and with its past record of achievements in this field it already stands well to the top among the cities of the land. The effort in the coming campaign will be made to set a still higher standard in the way of adherence to the strictest truth and common honesty in advertising practice.

Aside from arousing the interest of the women shoppers, who buy approximately 85 per cent of all the supplies the report shows 25 miles of paving under construction or contract, 148 miles of macadam and 480 miles of railway transportation for the work included in the report aggregating \$15,437,211.02. Practically every county in the state is represented in the list of contracts, the various projects ranging in cost from \$42,370 to \$3,857,473.80.

Following is the summary of the projects under contract, together with the price bid on each.

Columbia river highway..... \$225,925.21
Pacific highway..... 3,857,473.80
West side Pacific highway..... 1,230,436.25
Salem-Dallas highway..... 329,742.59
Yamhill-Neustette highway..... 426,982.11
Coast highway..... 691,053.00
Portland-Forest Grove-McMinn..... 748,878.30
Ashland-Klamath Falls..... 771,213.30
Grater lake highway..... 246,000.00
John Day highway..... 350,464.80
La Grande-Enterprise highway..... 42,370.00
McKenzie river highway..... 97,500.00
Oa Oregon trail highway..... 308,980.60
Oregon-Washington highway..... 273,126.00
Mount Hood loop highway..... 227,587.00
Flora-Enterprise highway..... 13,500.00
Mount Hood loop highway..... 227,587.00
Grants Pass-Crescent City..... 189,325.00
Burns-Lawen..... 197,967.00

Total..... \$12,864,342.32

10 per cent contingencies..... 1,286,434.25

10 per cent engineering..... 1,286,434.25

Total..... \$15,437,211.02

SALEM, Or., Aug. 2.—(Special).—Some idea of the magnitude of Oregon's good roads programme can be gained from the report just issued by the state highway department. The report includes all state highway, post and forest projects under contract July 15.

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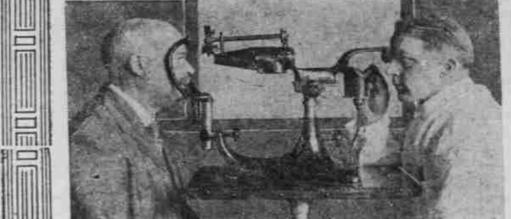
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THOMPSON OPTICAL INSTITUTE

Eyesight Specialists
Portland's Largest, Most Modern, Best Equipped,
Exclusive Optical Establishment
209-10-11 Corbett Building, Fifth and Morrison
Since 1908

HIGHWAY PROGRAMME BIG

322 MILES OF PAVING UNDER CONTRACT IN OREGON.

Total Bids for Work Aggregate \$15,437,211—Nearly Every County Is Represented.

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