

HIGH LIVING COST MESSAGE SHOWS UNIVERSAL RISE

President Taft Gives to Senate Figures Furnished by Consul Generals; Co-operative Stores Are Described.

(Special to The Journal.)
Washington, March 14.—That every country of Europe has suffered from the increase in the cost of living, and that the world over there are "multiplied evidences of the universal restlessness under these conditions," is shown in a report submitted by President Taft in a special message to congress today.

The report is the result of an investigation extending over several years made under the directions of the president by the state department through its consular agents in Europe. It forms a second step in the president's effort to have this country initiate an international commission to look into the cause for the high cost of living and the possible remedies, which he first suggested to congress in a message February 2.

Comparisons in staple food prices in all of the important cities of Europe for the past 12 years are given, and an exhaustive study is made of the efforts of the Co-operative Societies of Great

Britain to help the wage earner in his fight against the increasing burden of the high cost of living.

The consul general at London shows that in the United Kingdom between the years 1896 and 1910, while food prices rose 12.5 per cent, wages increased only 1.1 per cent, and that the wages of railway employees in that time increased only 7.3 per cent. To emphasize what this increase means to the British consumer the consul general gives specific quotations showing that bacon and ham, which in 1898 could be bought in the English market for a fraction under 9 cents a pound, now costs above 16 cents per pound; that butter has increased from 22.7 cents per pound to 35.7 cents; that cheese, from 10.5 cents to 13 cents; lard, from 6.5 cents to 13.6 cents; sugar, 3 cents to 4.6 cents. Flour is the only food commodity showing a decrease in price. That has fallen from 2.75 cents in 1898 to 2.46 cents today.

In the last five years in Southampton, England, staple commodities, such as beef, mutton, ham, dairy products, fruits, coffee, fuel, tin goods, women's apparel, foot wear, clothing, cotton goods, bedding furniture and underwear, have shown an increase of 20 per cent. At Hull, England, it is shown that the increase in the cost of living has advanced far faster than the increase in the rate of wages. The consul at Manchester drew an interesting comparison between the staple expenditures of the ordinary English family in 1898 and those required in 1910. The cost of living for such a family, it was shown, has increased some 13.9 per cent. A table compiled by the English board of trade shows that in 15 years potatoes are the only commodity in which there has been a decrease in price.

France has fared no better. All northern France, reports the consul general, is aroused over the increased burden of the cost of living. The consul at Havre, France, shows what tremendous

increases have occurred there. Beef, he says, which in November, 1902, sold for 25 cents, sold in November, 1911, for 39 cents; lamb during that time jumped from 30 cents to 49 cents; veal, from 31 cents to 48 cents; pork from 25 cents to 40 cents; chickens from 25 cents to 38 cents; potatoes, from 1 cent to 2 1/2 cents; eggs from 40 cents to 58 cents; butter from 30 cents to 44 cents; milk from 4 1/2 cents to 6 cents; rice, from 3 cents to 10 cents; flour jumped 1 cent a pound; bread from 3 cents to 4 cents; tea from 55 cents to \$1, and soft coal increased from \$10 per ton to \$12 per ton. Sugar alone showed a decrease of 3 cents a pound.

The consul states that his quotations on meats are for the second French quality, and that the prime meats cost from one half to two thirds more than his quotations. In all the range of food commodities in the market at Lyon, France, fish is the only one which has not increased since 1909.

The cost of living has so increased in Germany that living conditions have been seriously affected. The average retail prices prevailing in 51 of the prin-

cipal cities of Germany in September, 1911, were: Beef, per pound, 13.4 cents; veal, 18.1 cents; mutton, 18.3 cents; fresh pork, 18 cents; ham in slices, 27.1 cents; whole ham, 27.3 cents; and bacon, 18.1 cents. Even horse meat sold for 3.4 cents per pound. Dairy products and vegetables showed a considerable increase in 1911, as compared with 1910 and previous years. The prices in Holland on foodstuffs have been soaring steadily since 1904. On such articles as beef, pork, eggs, butter, ham, wheat and beet sugar, the prices have shown increases ranging from 16 to 55 per cent. Among the greater increases in Holland in that time has been pork, 41 per cent; eggs, 35 per cent; butter, 34 per cent; ham, 25 per cent; wheat, 19 per cent; and beet sugar, 35 per cent. These increases are from 1895 to 1910. Market quotations from 1911 show a still greater increase.

This increase is echoed in the reports from consuls all over Europe.

Much of the report submitted by the president deals with co-operative societies of England. The co-operative idea

seems to have appeared first in England and has reached its highest development there. It was firmly established as early as the sixties. In 1908 there were 3099 co-operative societies in England, with a membership of 2,701,000, and sales aggregating 113,000,000 pounds sterling and net profits totaling 16,997,000 pounds.

The membership of English co-operative societies is made up almost exclusively of wage earners. They are strong-est in industrial centers, such as Lancaster. They are organized and operated under a well perfected code of laws. All of them are stock companies. In the smaller societies a person is required to buy only one share of stock, which generally sells at \$5, to become a member. In the larger societies he is usually asked to buy from two to five shares. No one person by law is allowed to own more than \$1000 worth of stock in a co-operative association. Some of them seek to sell merchandise to their members at cost prices; others, in fact most of them, do not attempt to sell under current prices but return to their members the profits they make in the way of dividends. These dividends throughout the United Kingdom will average around 9 per cent. The report which the president submits to congress gives an excellent idea of the scope of the profits of one of the wholesale co-operative societies, called the Wholesale Co-operative society of England. Some of the activities of this organization consist in manufacturing boots and shoes; operating banks; dry goods stores; insuring its members; manufacturing soap; running steamship lines; selling tea and coffee; manufacturing cocoa and chocolate; clothing, shirts and corsets, hosiery, and operating fruit farms. This society has branches established all over the world, and buys goods for its members at the

best available prices in the world market.

Naturally, the activities of these co-operative societies have aroused a great deal of opposition from private dealers. These dealers claim that instead of encouraging thrift, the societies, by paying dividends, which they do generally a few weeks before the semiannual English rent collections occur, leave their members to depend upon the dividend payments to meet their rents—a practice, which they say is demoralizing.

But, whatever these critics may say against the societies, the general idea given by all of the consuls in their reports is that these co-operative societies do, in their dividends, show generally a saving to the consumer on his purchases, and that their activities operate to keep down the prices in the private stores.

Fine early spring for gardening.

PROHIBITION ORATORS COMPETE FRIDAY EVE

(Special to The Journal.)
McMinnville, Or., March 14.—The annual intercollegiate contest of oratory of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association of Oregon, will be held at the Imperial theatre in this city Friday night. The institutions represented in this contest are Albany college, Dallas college, Philomath college, McMinnville college, Pacific college and Willamette university. The orations are all along the line of prohibition of the liquor traffic. The winner of this contest will represent the state in the interstate contest.

There is Only One
"Bromo Quinine"
That is
Laxative Bromo Quinine
USED THE WORLD OVER TO CURE A COLIC IN ONE DAY.

Always remember the full name. Look for this signature on every box. 25c. *E. W. Grove*

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure

The only Baking Powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar

NO ALUM, NO LIME PHOSPHATE

ANOTHER CRAFT ON THE ROCKS

One of the Finest Stocks of Clothing and Men's Haberdashery in the City of Portland

ENGULFED

The same old story, told in the same old way, of a business house trying to keep above water and in the end to meet with FAILURE and go down and out.

This store is one of the exclusive houses and one of the finest stores in Portland, and has catered to the select trade of the city. Tomorrow is the beginning of the end. POSITIVELY selling out. Store will be sold out to the public wholesale and retail, and it must go. Stock consists of the highest grade of HAND-TAILORED CLOTHES for MEN, such as Levy, Rochester and Griffin clothes, just arrived in the last few days for the Easter trade. CONTRACT GOODS AND ALL WILL GO. All standard made shirts, Cooper's underwear, Mallory and Stetson hats, finest neckwear, hosiery.

Everything Must Go, Nothing Reserved. A Few Items as an Idea of Prices:

- 25c Boston Garters cut to 15c
- 25c Men's Handkerchiefs at 6c
- 25c Sox cut to 9c
- 50c Sox, Silk Lisle, cut to 19c
- 50c and 75c Neckties cut to 19c
- \$1.50 to \$2.00 Dress Shirts at . . 79c
- \$1.50 Silk and Wool Underwear cut to 58c
- \$2.00 Cooper's Underwear cut to 88c
- \$3.00 Conquerer Hats \$1.48

- \$22.50 All New Spring and Summer Suits for Men cut to . . \$ 8.88
- \$25.00 and \$27.50 Men's Suits \$10.88
- \$32.50 and \$35 Men's Suits . \$12.88
- \$40.00 Dress Tuxedo Suits . . \$17.88
- \$50.00 Full Dress Suits cut to \$19.88
- \$25.00 Spring Overcoats cut to \$7.88
- \$30.00 Overcoats cut to \$10.88
- \$35.00 Men's Blue and Gray Mixed Suit at \$14.88

- \$3.00 Pajamas cut to \$1.29
- \$5.00 Pajamas cut to \$1.88
- \$3.00 Fine Cooper's Underwear cut to \$1.48
- \$2.00 Night Shirts 88c
- \$2.50 and \$3.00 Hats cut to . 98c
- \$5.00 and \$6.00 Hats, including Stetson and Mallory, cut to . \$2.48
- \$2.00 Men's Dress Gloves . . \$1.29
- \$1.50 Union Suits 59c

Sale Starts Thursday, March 14th, at 10 A. M. And Will Continue Until Every Dollar's Worth of Merchandise Is Disposed of

FRIEDMAN'S CLOTHES SHOP

133 SIXTH ST. Oregonian Building

133 SIXTH ST. Oregonian Building