USUAL LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND DOES NOT RULE FOOD CONDITIONS NOW

U. S. TAKES LESSON FROM OTHER NATIONS IN CONSERVING FOOD

War Entered Without Thought of Food Supply, Explains Herbert Hoover in Address.

OPPONENTS CONVINCED

Business Men Everywhere Recognize Wisdom of Policy and Promise Their Cooperation.

By James H. Collins

Speaking recently at a meeting of state food commissioners and his personal staff, Herbert Hoover gave a striking explanation of the part that food control plays in war.

He said that European nations went into the war giving little thought to the subject of food. Even Germany, with all its preparations, had not foreseen the significance of this factor. With millions of men taken from production and thousands of square miles of fertile fields laid waste by armies, the world's cupboard quickly began developing a barrenness like that of Mother Hubbard. Country after country went to the cupboard to get a bone and found a diminished supply.

This made it necessary to organize food supply and distribution, and the various countries tried various methods. They fixed maximum prices and minimum prices, regulated the production and distributing trades and put their people on rations. Those countries which established the earliest and best methods of food control secured the greatest efficiency in war. The best system, on the whole, is still that of Germany, and she has been able to maintain efficiency with a food supply which in some of her enemy countries might be most embarrassing. Russia, with perhaps the greatest possibilities of food production in Europe, did nothing at all, and out of Russia's food situation grew her revolution.

Food Control Lesser Evil

Mr. Hoover said that, whether we like it or not, we must deal with the food problem of war in one of two ways. There is not enough food to go around if we stick to the lavish methods of peace times. Rising prices, coupled with depreciation of money, due to issues of war bonds in every country, which make the purchasing power of money shrink, compel us to adjust the food supply to the world's appetite, either by controlling that supply in ways that lead to economy and make it suffice or by letting wages rise as prices rise, to keep pace roughly with fluctuations. Even an amateur economist can see at a glance that food control is better than wage increase because wage increase is a crude force, operating unevenly and with great injustice and suffering to millions of workers. The wages of many workers do not rise—the professional men, clerical workers, public employes, and so forth. Russia tried the experiment of letting wages adjust themselves to the diminishing food supply, and it did not work. Russia was brought to a state bordering on anarchy by the intolerable pressure of the food situation on the ordinary peaceful citizen.

Therefore, whether we like it or not, we must meet the food situation in one way or the other, and food control seems to be the lesser of two evils.

Opponents Quickly Convinced

This viewpoint explains most of the work thus far done by the United States food administration. From August 10, when President Wilson signed the food law, until today, much of the work of the food administration has centered upon the organization of food control machinery. The farmer, the grain man, the miller, the baker, the packer, the grocer, the wholesaler and retailer, the traveling salesman and the canned goods broker have gone to Washington in bodies representing the best men and the best minds in their respective trades, and have conferred there, not only with the food administrator himself, but with leading men in their own lines who are acting as volunteers on the food administration. Sometimes they have gone with fear in their hearts or resentment at the prospect of government interference in their business affairs. But there is something in Washington which quickly dissipates fear and resentment and leads there men to offer their unanimous support to food control measures.

"Whether we like it or not," they are told, "this is the situation. Business cannot go on as usual in war times because the law of supply and demand is thrown out of operation. These are the conditions and here is the only remedy that has been found in countries with greater experience in war than we have yet had. What do you think about it, gentlemen?"

All Interests Best Served

What the business men think is shown in every case by their action in recognizing the necessity for food control. They have promised their patriotic cooperation and are readjusting their trade organization and methods for loyal support of food administration policies.

With sensible food control it is possible to handle the other two outstanding problems of food supply in war. One is increased production and the other is economical use of food. With stable prices, absence of speculation and the temporary surrender of individual trade advantages, the farmer can have an assurance of prices ample enough to encourage larger planting and livestock raising. And by these same safeguards thrown around the food supply, the consumer is made willing to economize in food, and is also able to purchase the necessities of life at prices which are at least reasonable, and, what is more important, do not suffer wild fluctuations.

This is food control in a nutshell. Whatever fear or hostility there may be in the country over food control arises entirely from misunderstanding of what food control really means, why it is necessary and how it is being carried out. In no case does this feeling persist after real food control has been explained.

LOG IS LARGEST EVER PARADED THROUGH PORTLAND STREETS

Big timber drawn by six-horse team, which created much comment during fire prevention parade last Tuesday. This stick was 32 feet long and 32 inches in diameter at the small end.

WASTE IN GARBAGE FOR AUGUST SHOWS A DECIDED DECREASE

Government Figures Indicate Food Conservation Program Meets With Success.

Substantial decrease in volume of garbage collected and quantity of grease extracted from garbage is shown in figures from 69 American cities, with an aggregate population of about 22,000,000, issued today by the United States food administration. Total collections for August were but 93.4 per cent of collections for the same month in 1916.

Grease recovered in the nine cities having reduction plants with available reports show a decrease of 29.2 per cent over a period from June 1 to August 31, based on extraction of 2654 tons last year and only 1911 tons this year.

As an indication of saving or waste, the amount of grease recovered is a better index than the total amount of garbage collected. Larger collections may mean that more canning or preserving is being done, or an increased use of fresh vegetables, or possibly the utilization of cheaper materials. Smaller collections may mean, in cities of extended suburbs, more extensive private collections to feed chickens or swine or to use as a fertilizer.

Big Timber Creates Comment

Stick Features the Fire Parade

Big logs are so common in the Pacific northwest that they long ago ceased to create comment among those who go into the forests to cut them. To those whose only association with these big sticks is to see them floating in the water, or in the shape of lumber as they are carted through the streets of the city, any illustration of the bigness of an uncut log is always interesting.

Great timbers, some of them nearly a hundred feet long have been hauled through Portland, in the regular course of business, but it was not until last Tuesday, so far as any of the old timers remember, that a mammoth stick was paraded through the streets.

This log, 32 feet long and 32 inches in diameter at the small end was snaked out of a boom at the Eastern & Western Lumber company and no attempt was made to pick the largest one in the raft. On the other hand, hoisting such a dead weight as is represented by a big log had to be considered, and Hugh Henry, secretary of the forest fire protective association, who secured it, chose one which, while it looked big, was not so large as to "stump" the abilities of the giant crane at the Municipal Dock No. 1.

This log was of Douglas fir and as it was drawn by six horses through the streets in the fire prevention day parade it created no little comment.

Beans Outclassed One Day in Boston

Monday was banana day in Boston. Several hundred thousand bananas that had arrived on a fruit steamer were about to be dumped into the bay to steady the market when the board of health interfered and instead of allowing the dumping of this valuable food ordered it distributed among the people free of charge because the dealers had refused to handle the shipment, says an exchange. Large crowds collected on the docks and were successfully handled so that no one came away empty handed. It was a real banana day and beans were outclassed for once.

School Children to Learn Obligations

American school children will soon have put before them material for "education in democracy," at the request of President Wilson, through the cooperation of the food administrator and United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton.

A series of bulletins entitled "Lessons in Community and National Life" will b issued to pupils of all schools, calling attention to the necessity for conservation of food and other national resources. They will serve the further purpose of training pupils in recognition of their rights and obligations in the democracy in which they live.

CENSUS OF ALASKAN SEAL HERDS IS TAKEN BY FISHERIES BUREAU

Figures Show 125,712 Cows and About 40,000 Pups; Total All Kinds 463,374.

The United States bureau of fisheries has received an estimate from St. Paul island of the size of the Alaska fur-sea herd as determined by the latest enumeration. Eight rookeries on St. Paul island gave 37,420 live pups and 1028 dead pups. Three rookeries on St. George island gave 2819 live pups and 41 dead pups. In these rookeries the average harem was 35.93 cows, which average applied to all rookeries shows 125,712 breeding cows and the same number of pups. The rookery bulls numbered 7555, yearlings 76,036, females 2 years old 26,916, bachelors 2 to 6 years old 92,736, idle bulls 8707, an approximate total of 463,374. Great difficulty was experienced in making the pup count owing to the continued presence of the harem masters, and the pup census could not be entirely completed for this reason.

The steamer Roosevelt brought from the Pribilof islands to Seattle during August a full cargo of the islands' products. In the cargo were 4582 salted seal-skins, of which 2823 were from St. Paul island and 2059 from St. George. Those from the former were shipped in casks, while those from the latter were carried in bulk, covered with salt, and came through in good condition.

Grocers Will Help To Sell Produce

During October and November a concerted selling movement will be directed on the potato crop by retail grocers throughout the country. Plans were perfected in a recent conference with the food administration, at Washington, D. C., attended by representatives of the large retail grocers, the retail grocers' national organization, and the chain stores. Consumers will be urged to buy and store quantities of from three to 10 bushels where they have facilities; the grocers will cooperate by handling potatoes at a reasonable profit; farmers will endeavor to supply the potatoes as they are needed, and the food administration will contribute publicity and technical information. The National Retail Grocers' association through their bulletin will instruct merchants on good ways of selling and storing potatoes. It is believed that this campaign, spread over two months while the first potatoes are moving to market, will create a steady buying movement throughout the country, assuring potatoes at reasonable prices to the consumer all winter, with a fair profit to farmers and merchants, and a liberal use of potatoes to conserve our wheat.

Fewer Styles Will Help Out Shortage

Contracts for 9,000,000 pairs of shoes for the army and navy have made great drafts upon the leather supply, which is below normal. Any surplus of leather in any part of the world would melt like snow in the sunshine if countries sorely in need of leather were permitted to buy and could get deliveries. Moreover, there is the menace of the depleted cattle supply. Herds have been slaughtered faster than they can be reproduced for some years to come. To help relieve this situation the executive committee of the National Boot & Shoe Manufacturers' association has recommended that fewer and simpler shoe styles be designed, salesmen furnished fewer samples, low-cut shoes be popularized, materials other than leather be used wherever possible, expensive leathers be replaced by those of more moderate costs, and the killing of calves be restricted.

Big Saving Is Made In Wheatless Week

Massachusetts recently held a wheatless week and saved 25,000 barrels of white flour, according to the estimate of Henry Endicott, federal food administrator of the state.

Road to Democracy

The West Coast Lumberman of Seattle says that Canadian labor clothed in union suits and working under the Union Jack with union wages will soon have an eight hour union day and thus help to establish world democracy.

INCREASES IN OUTPUT AND DEMAND NOTED IN DOUGLAS FIR MARKET

Production Is 27.9 Per Cent Above Normal; Log Shortage to Curtail Production.

Moderately increased demand with prices fairly well maintained, with increased production, have been the features of the Douglas fir market during the past fortnight, says the West Coast Lumberman. The association report covering the operations of 144 mills for the week ending September 22 shows that production is now 27.90 per cent of normal, whereas during the strike, production did not average much more than 50 per cent of normal. The barometer indicates that orders are increasing faster than shipments. In fact, unshipped orders for the 144 mills now stands at 9965 cars, whereas on the corresponding date last year, undelivered orders of 110 mills amounted to only 6217 cars.

Curtailment due to log shortage, is bound to be an important market feature probably all fall and winter. Regardless of the efforts of the I. W. W. to hamper and restrict logging operations, logging operators will be unable to obtain enough men to keep camps running full capacity. They will face the same situation that British Columbia loggers have faced ever since the war started, namely a labor shortage. It is extremely doubtful if the output of lumber can become much larger than it is right now. This will mean enforced curtailment.

Uppers are scarce, and outside prices have been bid for them during the past two weeks. Cutting business has also been very plentiful. The only place any weakness whatever developed—and this can hardly be termed weakness—was in the dimension end. This seems to be due largely to the willingness of a few small mills here and there to dispose of their stock at less than they might obtain by more careful merchandising.

In view of the fact that stocks are badly shattered and the mills normally holding big stocks, have very little to offer at this time, and with fairly heavy fall trade developing, there is no reason why fir values should not be well maintained. Mills dependent upon the open market for their log supply are not in a position to make any concessions whatsoever since logs are now higher than they have ever been, number 1 being quoted as high as $17.

The shingle market is strong in the face of increased production. Approximately 70 to 75 per cent of red cedar shingle mill capacity is now in operation.

Asphalt pavements are softened and sometimes disintegrated by illuminating gas leaking from mains beneath them.

THOSE WHO BUY OUT OF TOWN ARE DOING HARM TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS

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Following is an alphabetical directory of all advertisers on these two pages. All are manufacturers of the articles mentioned, and not merely dealers in and sellers of the goods and wares. Their productions will be found the equal of any to be had, and should have the attention of Portland and Oregon buyers:

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Oregon Door Co., doors, sash, etc., foot Spokane ave.

Oregon Chair Co., chairs, 1190 Macadam rd.

Portland Auto Lamp Co., copper and brass spinning, 510 Alder st.

Portland Furniture Mfg. Co., furniture, upholstering, 1249-59 Macadam road.

Peninsula Iron Works, foundrymen and machinists, Alta and Bradford sts.

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Pendleton Woolen Mills, woolen cloth, Indian blankets, Pendleton, Or.

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(Continued on Next Page)

Coopey Says Will our preachers, or somebody, tell why a number of people, from the German Kaiser down, when grafting or doing their most treacherous work, claim God as a side partner? We admit the Kaiser has his lackey, Bernstorff, so the other fellows have their lackies, whom they promise a job, or give a little money as a loan, or otherwise, or hand them a doughnut or a sack of peanuts; anyway they get plenty of lackies.

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Indepcndence Mine Purchased

The famous Independence mine near Hailey has been purchased by the Federal Mining & Smelting company. The Independence mine is one of the most consistent producers of lead silver ore in the Wood river district. A new four foot ledge of rich galena has just been opened up.

Logging Road to Build

A short logging railroad is to be built into the timber at Trillcoos lake to serve the needs of the W. D. Hull shingle mill. Mr. Hull has purchased a quantity of cedar from the government. The new logging camp will be established on Fiddle creek, seven miles from the S. P. railroad and the logs floated down to rail connection.

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SERIOUS SHORTAGE IN RAW MATERIALS TO SEND UP STOVE PRICES

One Company in East Is Just Receiving Steel Ordered a Year Ago.

Within the last few days the American Artisan and Hardware Record, a Chicago publication, has mailed a circular letter to hardware dealers and stove manufacturers, warning them of a serious stove shortage within a month or two, and advising them to place their orders for material or stoves as early as possible. The letter states that "the prime deterrent factor in the stove manufacturing industry is the inability to obtain deliveries of raw material." It cites a company which is now receiving shipments which were ordered a year ago, and predicts that orders for raw materials placed now will not be delivered in less than two years. Shipbuilding and munitions plants will, it is believed, absorb all available raw material, these being given preference in its use to stove manufacturing. Thousands of stoves, the paper says, will be required for government cantonments, which likewise will figure in curtailing the general supply. The government has already purchased $5,000,000 worth of cooking and heating appliances.

Prices to Advance

At the Portland Stove works at Kenton, Ralph Montag, the manager, reports that his company has raw material on hand enough to last it until August 1, therefore the local industry will not be affected at present. Pig iron in the general market has increased in price from $18 to $52 a ton in a relatively short time, and stove manufacturers caught short have already been forced to increase their prices.

Steel also has increased 300 per cent in its selling value, so present quotations can not last much longer. The government, however, has now fixed a price of $52 per ton for steel.

"My advice to the consumer," says Mr. Montag, "is to procure whatever he must have in the line of stoves as soon as possible. If he does not, what he has to buy will later cost him more money."

The Portland Stove company has invented and patented an entirely new idea in a combination range, using either gas, wood or coal for fuel. In appearance it is a most beautiful piece of furniture, but it is in utility that it shines most brilliantly. It is expected to place the range on the market within the next week, but already dealers throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California have ordered it in carload lots.

"It is going to be a world beater," Mr. Montag says. "It is the fulfillment of the dream of my life. I have for years been convinced that there was needed an improvement in this type of range, and at last we have it. You will hear more of it later on."

Durable Roofing Co. Completes Big Job

It is likely that the contract the Durable Roofing company of this city has just completed for the government at American Lake is the largest in that line ever undertaken by any concern on the Pacific coast. It covered 6,500,000 square feet of surface, equivalent to 140 acres of ground, and the management may have to return to roof still other buildings. In cash the job amounted to $85,000, and it was completed without the slightest friction on the part of anyone.

"We came through without any faultfinding," says J. A. Barbour, vice president and factory manager, "and, therefore, I am certain our work and material was satisfactory. It certainly must have been or it would not have passed the most rigid examination given it daily by the government inspector, as it was laid. He was a man of the keenest discernment, too, and if there has been a flaw, however small, he would have called attention to it.

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The plant of the Durable Roofing company is at Kenton, the northern suburb, and covers probably half an acre of ground. Its yards and warehouses are as large again.

Two new deposits of emeralds have been discovered in Colombia, which is the world's chief source of the gems, producing about 800,000 carats a year in normal times.

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