

CONGRESS TAKES UP DRASTIC LAWS TO AVERT FAMINE

Seriousness of Situation Shown by Reports of Most Unfavorable Outlook for Food.

FARM LABOR COST MOUNTING

Unequal Relation Between Town and City Intensified by High Wages in War Work.

Washington, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—Alarmed as never before since the war began over the prospect of a worldwide famine, congress today turned its attention to the formation of a program of drastic legislation to stimulate agricultural production at almost any cost. Senators from the leading agricultural states, deluged with reports showing the most unfavorable condition of the food producing outlook, warned their colleagues that the time has come to throw off reserve and to treat the food situation as an emergency question. The unequal relation between farm and city, disturbing even before the war began, has been intensified by the centralization of population resulting from the attraction of workers from the country to the munition manufacturing centers. The enlistment and drafting of men to the army has increased the seriousness of the problem. Labor prices have become almost prohibitive in some rural sections of the country.

Farmers Are Heard

All these questions are to be gone into by the senate agricultural committee. The committee had before it today the measures introduced Wednesday by Senator Gore of Oklahoma, increasing the minimum price of wheat to \$2.50, and by Senator McCumber of North Dakota, boosting the price to \$2.75 a bushel. It called before it as witnesses today, farmers, livestock raisers, members of the state food administration and other persons having to do with the food question to learn the truth about the situation and to endeavor to determine the best possible remedy.

In fixing a new wheat price standard the committee was confronted by a two-fold problem. It is seeking to guarantee the farmer a price high enough to stimulate wheat production to the utmost degree but at the same time it is trying to keep the guarantee price within a limit that will not justify an increase in the cost of bread. Members of the committee regard their task as one of the most delicate now before the nation—how to produce the highest production of wheat and still keep bread prices down to the present level.

Farm Labor Costly

The American farmer will stop raising wheat and turn his attention to growing other cereals, Senator McCumber predicted today, unless higher wheat prices are guaranteed. "Farmers can grow four times as much corn upon a given acreage as they can wheat," said Senator McCumber. "They are getting \$2 for wheat. They can get \$1.75 for corn. They want to be patriotic but with labor prices soaring to incredible heights it will become a question of self-preservation with them."

Senator McCumber today told of cases where farm workers during harvest rush, who were getting \$20 a day, struck for \$24 a day. He declared that in Idaho girls and boys were paid from \$6 to \$10 a day for digging potatoes, in order that they would not rot.

Senator Gore, chairman of the agricultural committee, declared farmers would be forced to plow up winter wheat and sow corn unless they were guaranteed prices high enough to meet the increased cost of labor. Senator Kenyon predicted that America was "headed straight for a famine" unless production is stimulated.

The Truth About Belgium

The first complete official record of the devastation in Belgium by Brand Whitlock, United States minister to Belgium, will be published serially in The Sunday Journal, beginning Sunday, February 17.

DEATH TAKES EX-AMBASSADOR



Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, who passed away at Ottawa.

Tarred Attorney Faces Disbarment

Chicago, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—John L. Metzger, the Chicago attorney who was beaten, tarred and feathered and driven out of Staunton, Ill., by a mob of citizens, today faces disbarment proceedings. The Chicago Bar association has filed an information against him with the supreme court, charging unprofessional conduct.

DEFICIENCY MEASURE LARGEST IN HISTORY

(Continued from Page One)

more engineer regiments to man the roads.

Several hospital cars, Black said, not returning from this country, were purchased of England.

"Before we went into the extensive purchase of materials for France," Black said, "we made an agreement with the French government to turn it all over to France at the end of the war for her own railroad system. The lines will be appraised and become a French obligation to this country."

Gas masks, Dewey testified, are now being shipped to Pershing at the rate of 5000 a day, and in four weeks will be sent over at the rate of 20,000 a day.

"We have made a total of 201,000 masks so far," he said.

Other testimony showed:

Industries in this country owned by

German subjects are being very profitably operated by the alien property custodian. The profits, under the present law, are being saved for them until the war, according to Custodian A. Mitchell Palmer, who urged amendments that would take the profits away from the Kaiser's friends.

The war department's building work since war was declared has provided camp room for 1,585,855 men. This does not include the regular army posts.

The American dollar is worth only 75 cents in many parts of South America and several countries of Europe. Secretary of State Lansing said.

Rich Save Better Than Poor. If food production is to be increased this year \$6,000,000 is needed to buy seed to sell to farmers at a "reasonable cost," Secretary of Agriculture Houston said.

In urging a deficiency appropriation of \$2,000,000 for food administration work, Hoover pointed out that the administration is directing the buying of \$150,000,000 in food stuffs every month for the allies.

"We have not been able to supply the allies with all of any particular commodity they asked," Hoover said. "Our army and navy come first. The increased wage scale due to the war has been responsible for the great increases in consumption. If we can avoid food hoarding, it will be a great moral accomplishment. Conservation has taken place more largely in the class that is better-to-do than in the industrial class. New York, with its rich, has done more than Pittsburgh, with its workers. Export of any food at all has been possible only because of conservation."

Few Establishments Closed. Only about 15 establishments have been closed for violating food orders, Hoover said.

In urging that enemy businesses be liquidated and the cash turned over to the treasury, instead of saving the profits for the Germans, Custodian Palmer said:

"January 31 we had on our books 2090 German accounts, aggregating \$147,064,598, and 14,000 more will be put on within the next two months."

With an appropriation of \$17,000,000, a great increase in storage and terminal facilities along the Atlantic coast is launched. The plan was submitted by General George W. Goethals, acting quartermaster general, and was necessary because of the large shipments to American troops and the allies.

Terminals to Be Enlarged. The great Bush terminals in New York, recently taken over by the government, will be extended and large docks and storage depots will be built. For Norfolk, Va., an appropriation of \$25,000,000 is recommended; Charleston, S. C., \$16,500,000; to complete facilities at Governors Island, N. Y., \$2,000,000; Newark, N. J., \$4,600,000; Baltimore, \$9,800,000; Philadelphia, \$12,970,000; Boston, \$10,700,000. About \$25,000,000 will be used for extension at other points.

The deficiency appropriation for the navy was \$49,130,072.25, the largest items of which were for ordnance and training camp construction, \$10,000,000 being provided for the former and \$12,000,000 for the latter.

Seed Purchase Recommended. The food and fuel administrations were allowed \$1,750,000; the council of defense, \$250,000, and the alien property custodian, \$225,000. For the control of meningitis, malaria and venereal diseases among soldiers, \$500,000 was granted the public health service.

For the government purchase of seeds that may be sold to farmers at reasonable cost, \$4,000,000 was recommended. Additions to armories and arsenals authorized were:

Frankfort, Pa., \$1,010,000; Rock Island, Ill., \$220,000; Benicia, Cal., \$10,000.

That many more army barracks and quarters will be built is shown by the deficiency recommendation of \$52,151,604 for this purpose.

The original requests for appropriations totaling \$1,626,792,341.64 were cut down by more than \$500,000,000.

'Seven, You 'Leven,' Gone at Camp Lewis

Camp Lewis, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—No longer will the coyote call for "Big Dick" and "Little Joe" be heard around the barracks here. An order issued yesterday forbids gambling in any form. It states that many petty thefts and embezzlements which have been committed by the men are directly traced to the gambling.

EX-AMBASSADOR DIES IN OTTAWA

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice Passes Away Suddenly, Victim of Heart Trouble.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 14.—(U. P.)—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, former British ambassador to the United States, died this morning at 1 o'clock of heart failure at the government house. Lady Spring-Rice and her son and daughter were with him.

Sir Cecil had been in ill health for some years.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice will be buried in Ottawa. The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon from Rideau Hall to St. Bartholomew church. It will be private.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Deep regret was expressed this morning in official and diplomatic circles on learning of the death in Ottawa during the night of Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, who had just retired as British ambassador to the United States.

Sir Cecil was in bad health when he left here, but his condition was not considered serious. It was stated that there was not the slightest doubt that he died directly as a result of his efforts during the war.

Lady Spring-Rice and their two daughters had accompanied the ambassador when he left here. He had planned to remain in Canada for a brief period and then return to England.

Announcement of the sudden demise of his predecessor came as a complete shock to Earl Redding, the acting ambassador, who only presented his credentials to President Wilson late yesterday afternoon. It was stated that he would issue a statement later in the day.

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing were expected to send telegrams of condolence later in the day of Lady Spring-Rice.

Sir Cecil had been stationed at Washington since 1912. He succeeded Viscount Bryce. He had been at Washington once before, serving as acting third secretary at the embassy 30 years ago. He returned again when Theodore Roosevelt was president, but on a special mission, and did not remain long. It was reported that his mission had to do with the Russo-Japanese war.

Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice was born in 1859, the son of Hon. Charles Spring-Rice, and was of Irish descent. He was educated at Eton and Oxford.

Shirt Lost; No One to Suspect But Policemen

Chicago, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—With the weather still of the variety often called "crimpy," Policeman Joseph Snyder today is speculating on how he can make a short cotton undershirt take the place of a long woolen one with a pink fringe.

Summoned to the civil service rooms for physical examination, Snyder hung his woolen garment on a peg. When he went to get it, a cotton one was in its place. Except for some 200 policemen, it is not believed anyone was in the room.

and started his public service as a clerk in the war and foreign office. He served as secretary to the legation at Brussels, Washington, Tokio, Berlin and Constantinople, charge d'affaires at Teheran, minister to Persia and minister to Sweden. Later he was first secretary at Petrograd.

He acted as best man at Colonel Roosevelt's second marriage. He was married in 1904 to the daughter of Sir Frank Lascelles, the British ambassador to Berlin, and is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

Irrigation Project Granted More Time

Salem, Or., Feb. 14.—An extension of time for the completion of the Central Oregon irrigation project, in Crook county, has been granted by the general land office, according to a message received Wednesday afternoon by the state desert land board.

The extension, which runs from February 13, 1918, to October 17, 1920, applies to what is known as Oregon segregation list No. 6, under the Carey act. This list includes 84,000 acres of land.

Prisoner Accused Of Big Explosion

Pottsville, Pa., Feb. 14.—(U. P.)—Harold McCool, residence unknown, is held in the Schuylkill county prison here by the state police on a charge of complicity in blowing up the Eddy-stone ammunition plant on April 10, 1917, resulting in the death of 140 persons and the injury of a hundred others. He was picked up at Ambler, Pa., on Tuesday by Trooper Eller, who has charge of a substation there.

SIoux INDIANS ARE FIGHTING IN FRANCE

American Captain Is Adopted Son of Old Chief John Glass of Dakotas.

By Newton C. Parks. With the American Army in France, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—Sioux Indians from far off North Dakota reservation are now fighting with the Americans in France under a captain who is the adopted son of the old chief, John Glass. Before the departure of the "Braves" from the reservation the old chieftain called a big pow-wow and told them that he would depend upon them to fight like men to uphold the glory and honor of the tribe.

Chief John Glass is now over 80 years of age and is the acknowledged leader of the remnants of the old Sioux tribe. At his death his adopted son will come into the leadership of the Sioux.

About 200 Indians came over with a militia unit in a certain replacement division. Most of them were shifted to transport work, but some were held to fill up gaps in a unit now on the firing line.

Interesting stories are told of the "war council" in the tent of old Chief Glass just before the Indians left their reservation. The old leader told the young men that the honor of the tribe

was at stake and that he depended upon them to carry out the glorious traditions of the past when he fought the "Palefaces."

Old John was a personal friend of the late Buffalo Bill, whom he held in the highest esteem.

The American sector of the front was more quiet on Wednesday than at any other time since the doughboys took over part of the battle line.

The weather was rainy and misty, which prevented systematic artillery firing, although there was desultory shelling. The Germans for the most part remained absolutely inactive and only a few of the American shots were answered.

The thick mud in No Man's Land prevented patrol activities. There were no casualties.

Speculators Boost Price of Jute Bags

San Francisco, Feb. 14.—Western farmers are much exercised over the prospect of paying twice as much for Calcutta jute bags as they have paid before. There is talk of asking the British government to suppress speculation in the bags, which is said to be largely responsible for the soaring in price from 12 cents last year to 24 and even 25 cents now.

It is pointed out that the alleged exorbitant price of Calcutta jute bags, many millions of which are used on the coast each year, will add one cent in cost to the consumer for each four pounds of vegetable and other crops handled in bags.

Farmers are said to have refused thus far to deal with importers.

Teachers Expelled; Bar Loyalty Pledge

Denver, Feb. 14.—(I. N. S.)—Because they refused to sign a loyalty pledge containing the words "obedience to the laws and constituted authorities" of the United States, Miss Gertrude Nafe and Miss Ellen Kennan, teachers of English in the East Denver high school, were dismissed by the school board last night. They will appeal to the courts.

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MUTT & JEFF—PICTOGRAPH

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