

Daily Democrat

F. P. NUTTING Lessee

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BUSINESS MATTER

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1916.

THE FOOD SITUATION.

Since the outbreak of the war exports of meats to Europe have increased by 150 per cent. Exportation of the six major grains—wheat, barley, corn, rye, oats, and buckwheat—so far this year has practically doubled since 1914. The increase in shipment of vegetables is more than 80 per cent over last year, and 100 per cent since 1914. Egg shipments are 40 per cent more.

This is one reason why foodstuffs are high. It is not, however, the reason why foodstuffs are as high as they are. It merely serves as an excuse for the speculator.

The consumer is not the only one who is suffering from this highway robbery. The small retailer is having an extremely serious time getting along. The average neighborhood grocer is trying to keep a brave front over a situation which grows increasingly grave. He cannot afford to stock up as usual for his winter's trade. Potatoes, for example, are so high that he simply cannot put in his customary hundred barrels because he cannot tie up so much of his capital in them. He is buying in small quantities, hoping against hope for a break in the market. Scarcely ever does he get his full order from the wholesaler, even at that. Only half of his sugar will be delivered—a fraction of his flour. The housewife blames him and the wholesaler won't serve him and the prices are breaking him. What can he do?

J. M. Bell, general secretary of the National Association of Master Bakers of America, says that 20 per cent of the bakeries of this country have gone out of business since the war began. The bakers, he says, would eagerly welcome an investigation by the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce or a special committee of Congress. They want to know why they can't get flour at rates which show some sort of sane agreement with the wheat crop situation. They aren't any more anxious to be put out of business than the bread buyers are to pay abnormal prices for their bread.

The Federal Trade Commission is to consider within the next few days the matter of making an investigation into the cost of all the necessities of life. It is to be hoped that the investigation will proceed rapidly and effectively. If it does not, measures much more drastic will soon be required.

Times of public stress in the past have always served as a means of making ill gotten fortunes by the greedy and unscrupulous. Public opinion ought to have advanced to the point where this is no longer permitted. The food situation is the most vital and pressing problem in the land today.

BRAVE BIRDS.

Dr. Arthur A. Alein, head of the ornithological department of Cornell University, announces a new theory of courage. Commenting on the apparent indifference of birds to shell fire on the European battlefields, he attributes it to innate courage, and then proceeds to explain why the birds are brave.

"Courage," he says, "is simply a matter of temperature." He attributes the superior fearlessness of the birds to the fact that they have a more rapid pulse and a higher temperature than human beings.

It's an interesting theory, but not wholly convincing. Do those birds build nests in the shattered woods and hanging trenches because they're brave, or because they don't know any better? It doesn't look like a logical test of courage.

When it comes to the usual tests, certainly Prof. Allen's theory falls down. Isn't a wren as warm as an English sparrow, or a buzzard as warm as an eagle? Then why isn't it as brave? Likewise with animals. The rabbit has a quicker pulse and at least

as high a temperature as the dog that chases him. Yet a rabbit is often so paralyzed with with fear at the sight of danger that he can't even use the legs that the Lord gave him. A lion isn't any warmer than a cow. And when it comes to man, what has blood heat to do with courage? A high temperature may make a man excitable, but not necessarily brave. We speak of the "cold feet" of fear, but we speak still more of "cool courage." And that's the sort of courage most admired. It's the calm eye and steady hand, with the deliberate purpose back of them, that are most feared in game and combat. And most of the world's great fighters have been known as "cold blooded" men. Caesar was a mighty chilly proposition, and Napoleon is said to have had a pulse-beat of about 40 a minute.

MISFITS

When a football team gets beaten the other team is always composed of giants.

Does us good to see Carranza lick Villa.

Albany high is plunging its way to a glorious football championship.

What counts with a football team is having it strong at every point. That's Albany, not a weak place in the chain of players.

One jelly fish in the line and the other team has a walk-away.

In any game of life the great thing is to find the enemy's weakness and batter continually at that point.

Some one wants an embargo so that it will cut the price of wheat down, which will cut the price of bread and make living cheaper. On the other hand this would cut the income of the farmer, who is the sinew and backbone of commerce according to all the political and economic writers, and there you are.

Some people always look at a thing with a view of finding something about it to criticize, which is easy. Others hunt for the good in it.

The old story of Jack Spratt and his wife comes up continually in business and socially.

The man who gets elected to the legislature at least gets his picture in the paper. Some of them never get

anything else except the small salary. And some do. This is Thanksgiving week, and how our mouths water for what will cause many a S. A. A big thing about Thanksgiving is anticipation. Something debated during Misfit's boyhood days was "Resolved that there is more pleasure in anticipation than reality," and it was always which and tother who would win.

Football dope is poor stuff. Recently Wisconsin and Minnesota went into a game with the dope from previous games making the probable score: Wis. 50, Minn. 0. Instead the score was Minn. 54, Wis. 0.

In good roads work what is wanted is value received for the money.

In things done for government it is not often this is accomplished. Some people in the world think it is a special province to graft governments, big and small.

One should be as economical while working for any kind of a government as when working for oneself.

We do well in everything to think of the other fellow.

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The ladies of the Grace Presbyterian church will hold a bazaar in the building formerly occupied by Scott & Conn at corner of Main and Salem road all day Wednesday, Nov. 29. All kinds of aprons and hand made articles, cooked foods for your Thanksgiving dinner everybody invited. n25-28

Willamette Lodge No. 859 L. O. O. M. meets every Wed. evening Moose Hall cor. 2nd and Lyon Sts. J. F. Kennedy, Sect. Visiting members welcome.

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