

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS of Main Street and the World

Cattlemen Withhold Beef in Protest Of Government's Rollback Program

EMPTY MEAT CASES—Empty meat cases were beginning to show up across the nation as cattlemen continued to hold beef off the market in protest to the government's price rollback program of 8-to-10 cents a pound by October 1. The shortage was being felt only in larger cities, but the home town housewife can expect to feel the pinch if marketing does not increase within a short time.

President Truman and Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle continued to stick by their rollback decisions. DiSalle told reporters retreat now might wreck the whole stabilization program. President Truman called it a "good program" and said he thought beef producers could be brought around.

While Truman and DiSalle were making these statements, Chicago and other cities reported nearly empty cattle pens. Packing firms continued to slaughter only a trickle of their normal quantity of cattle. Only 122,100 cattle were sent to market last week in the nation's 12 biggest livestock centers. In the corresponding week a year ago 167,700 were marketed.

At the moment it seems unlikely there will be a great increase in slaughtering until after June 30. Cattlemen are gambling that price controls will be lifted at the end of this month.

The present situation is somewhat similar to the 1948 beef battle when cattlemen withheld beef in their successful attempt to kill the government's price control program. It was argued at the time that if price controls were lifted there would be an increase in production and a decrease in price. There was an increase of production, but as today's prices testify there was no decrease in price.

FAR EAST SPECULATION—The unexpected and unannounced visit of George C. Marshall, secretary of defense, to Korea raised considerable amount of speculation in the home towns of the nation. Was his visit the first step toward a cease fire in Korea? Was some new military development about to be revealed?

Repeatedly, Marshall told reporters he did not expect any Chinese peace move soon and that his visit was strictly military. He remained silent after a series of guarded meetings with Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, U. N. supreme commander in the far east.

Of this much the home towners can be reasonably sure. Aging and not too well Marshall did not make the long and tiresome trip to Korea as a mailman's holiday, so to speak. If the home towners is speculating, the Kremlin and Pieping must be down right worried.

MACARTHUR INVESTIGATION—The Armed services and foreign relations committees' investigation of the dismissal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur moved on its weary way with two new witnesses. For eight days Secretary of State Dean Acheson testified. The committees then called Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer.

Acheson's testimony was remarkable in that during the eight days there was no show of temper on the part of the witness or the investigators. In the minds of many, Acheson's thorough coverage of all questions asked was an attempt to justify the administration and the first move toward his withdrawal as secretary of state.

Only on one point was his testimony different from that of other administration witnesses. He asserted that MacArthur approved the 1946 attempt to bring the Chinese Reds and Nationalists together for a "unified, democratic China." MacArthur immediately issued a statement that he was the victim of a "fantastic" lie.

The other witness, Gen. Wedemeyer, backed and even went beyond the Korean War proposals of Gen. MacArthur, but said President Truman had the right to fire his old commander. Briefly, Wedemeyer would withdraw American troops from Korea, break off relations with Russia, go into full mobilization, and "go to the real perpetrator of all this." These would be drastic moves and a definite risk of war.

WHEAT CROP MAKES COMEBACK—The agriculture department reported the nation's wheat crop is making a comeback from bad weather conditions and now promises the eighth successive harvest of more than a billion bushels. The June forecast is about 72 million bushels more than forecast a month ago.

The new forecast indicated a wheat crop of 1,054,000,000 bushels, about 25 million bushels more than last year's crop. Such a production would be only about 96 million bushels short of the government's production goal.

Unfavorable weather, particularly drought in the southwest great plains, and insects in the same area, coupled with cool, wet spring weather, had put the crop prospects under a cloud a month ago. Conditions improved greatly in May to bring the overall farm-production prospects up to normal by June 1.

THE SLOW ADVANCE—United Nations troops in Korea smashed the Communist "Iron Triangle" and continued their slow advance northward. The Reds have put up stiff resistance in the last two weeks and suffered an estimated 40,000 casualties in defense of the triangle.

The Communist were retreating slowly and orderly. There were indications in some areas of enemy buildup, possibly in preparation for renewed attacks. There was nothing in the over-all picture that indicated a clear cut victory for United Nations troops.



United Nations troops continued their slow, steady advance in Korea, inflicting thousands of casualties on Chinese Reds in the "Iron Triangle."

INFLATION BATTLE—June 30, expiration date of the present defense production act, is only a few days away and there are several indications that the administration is afraid new control laws won't be strong enough.

President Truman appeared worried and made three moves to get a strengthened law through congress. He issued a public warning that the nation may see "an unmanageable torrent of inflation" unless economic controls are extended, he called in congressional leaders for a get-the-controls-bill through conference, and he made a direct appeal to the people in a nationwide radio talk.

Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston, on radio and television shows, has tried to arouse the people to the dangers of inflation. Neither President Truman or Johnston have been very successful in their efforts.

DAY OF DECISION

Local Boards Must Pass on Students

There is going to be a buzz of action around home town draft boards within a short time. Local boards will start to receive any time now results of recent college tests to determine which college students shall have their military service deferred. On the results of these tests local boards—3,853 of them—must make their decisions.

Board members must determine whether Joe College, who wants to complete his education before donning a uniform, shall be classified II-A (student deferment) or I-A (eligible for induction). In making this determination, they may take into account his score on the aptitude test, his scholastic standing in his college class, and his locally-known capabilities and possible capacity for leadership.



Memories Are Short

OUR MEMORIES are so very short. And as a people we do not seem to learn, or at least to heed, from our past experience. We can at least say, however, "Here's where we came in."

Do you remember back in 1948? That's when price controls were thrown out the window. They were thrown overboard because big business and some segments of the farm industry told the people that once controls were off prices would find their own level, that the law of supply and demand would bring prices down, that increased production would win the battle for us.

Do you remember the slogan "Had Enough?" Do you remember the threats of the big cattlemen that unless price controls were discarded there would be a beef shortage, although there were just as many cattle in the country as before?

That was a phony issue, as phony as the threats and predictions of the big cattlemen are today. Don't forget price controls did work prior to 1946.

But now the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the master of the National Grange are telling congress that controls won't work—just eliminate controls and prices will find their own level and increased production, plus increased taxes, will do the trick.

In 1946 prices did find their own level, but it was a skyrocket level—a guided missile level that soared prices up 12 1/2 per cent in five months.

The Opposing Side

What is so paradoxical about this picture is that we have big business and big agriculture, telling big businessmen and big farmers, they are all wrong. For on the opposing side of this spearhead to kill off wage and price controls are the men heading the control agencies, such a galaxy of big business executives as have never been in Washington before.

Wilson Is Top Man

Heading the top control agency is probably the Mr. Big of big business, Charles E. Wilson of General Electric, who gave up an astronomical salary of something like \$250,000 annually to try to do something for his country. And he is doing it.

Mr. Wilson tells big business, "This generation has witnessed the horror and agony of two world wars. Yes, we are building America's might. But for what purpose? Not to fight a third world war, but to keep it from happening. . . . Under these circumstances it is too much to call upon industry and business to take down their 'business as usual' signs? I ask you, is it fair to call upon industry, labor and the farmer to be content with reasonable profits, wages and prices?"

Johnston's Plea

Then next in line is Eric Johnston, price stabilizer, twice president of the U.S.C. of C., and a very successful businessman in his own right, who tells big business that the beef industry is trying to ride rough shod over the American housewife with a cry of "damn the consumer and full pockets ahead."

He declared his fellow Mr. Bigs of big business and big agriculture who are trying to defeat wage and price controls exhibit "a mixture of astigmatism, wishful thinking, and a burning desire for business as usual at a time which is perhaps the most critical in all history."

Production at Peak

Production is at the highest rate in the history of this nation at this moment, a rate of 351 billions a year; personal income is up to \$223 billion a year; savings are at highest point in history; a house committee has recommended a 12 1/2 per cent tax boost.

Bank credit, consumer credit, installment credits have been curbed and may be tightened. Federal reserve board and treasury have agreed on new debt management policy, and you will be asked to buy bonds until it hurts. Still inflation persists and our dollar buys less. Price and wage controls have not had a chance to work. Why not give them a chance.

Slaughter Tapers Off

The volume of cattle going to market was below normal in recent weeks and big packers passed up many of the limited offerings, claiming they couldn't buy them and stay within price ceilings.

Spokesmen for the office of price stabilization, however, charged the situation was a "sitdown strike" and "an obvious attempt by the cattle industry to create an artificial shortage." It is an attempt to kill controls.

NEW CROPS WANTED

New York Spud Empire Looks For New Crops

HOULTON, Me.—The towns of Houlton, Presque Isle, Caribou, Van Buren, and a number of smaller villages in the 120 mile long and 30 mile strip of cultivated land often called Maine's potato empire, are looking for new crops to replace the potato.

In fact, the spud is shaking its throne in Aroostook county. Men who till the forest-rimmed, northern land crown of the Down East state are seeking diversification as escape from capricious King Potato.

The tuber tyrant has been in power for half a century under a one-crop system that has brought wealth to the area and the small towns in the past, but threatens austerity for the future.

Some Mainemen are pinning their hopes on the development of Aroostook's recently discovered deposits of manganese, highly strategic mineral used in processing steel. Although the county's manganese ore is of low grade, its deposits are among the largest in the United States.

Others consider prospects bright for raising poultry, dairy and beef cattle, since Aroostook is a grain producing area. In addition barley, peas, strawberries, and broccoli loom as promising possibilities for the county's short 110-day growing period.

One Fourth in Spuds

So change impends for Aroostook's 400,000 acres of rolling lands which have, in the past, yielded nearly a seventh of the nation's potatoes. Outside competition, the end of government price support with the 1950 crop, and a drop in national consumption of potatoes are listed as reasons for the expected change to other crops on as much as three-fourths of the tillable farm areas.

Some 96,000 people inhabit Aroostook county, which covers more area than Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Most of them live within the potato empire. The small towns of the area are dependent upon agricultural production.

Aroostook's remaining two-thirds is woodland, a sportsman's dream.

Aroostook Means Spud

Despite its potential as a playground, Aroostook's name means spud to the rest of its state and nation. It has been so since the early 1890's when the Bangor and Aroostook railroad pushed into the region to give it the all-important transportation link with the potato-eating world.

Aereage expanded under the pioneering hands of French, American and Swedish colonists, who settled the potato country in three separate regions. The "American" sector includes French-named Presque Isle and stretches south. Farmers of Swedish descent pushed north of Caribou, calling their towns Stockholm, New Sweden, and Jemtland. The French settled along the Canadian border in and around villages they named Lillie and Notre Dame.

A single economy, fostered by the potato, was common to all, however. In years of good crops and high prices farmers lived well, bought big, expensive cars and sent their children to the best schools. Bad years sometimes meant the loss of everything but the land itself.

Local Ministers Fight Home Town Gambling

WELLSVILLE, O.—The ministers of Wellsville wanted quick action on new anti-gambling ordinances. And they got it.

The ministers attended the regular meeting of the city council to press the enactment of new anti-gambling laws. Before the meeting was over the council passed an ordinance raising the gambling fine from \$200 to \$500. It also provides that the convicted party is subject to five to 30 days in jail for a second offense.

A spokesman for the ministerial delegation told the councilmen that everyone in their small town had been too tolerant of gambling.

The ministers indicated their association will continue to battle gambling on the home town level.

Since the recent investigation of gambling on a national scale, more and more small towns throughout the country have been enacting stricter anti-gambling laws.

Children's Village Made Good Citizens of 50,000

DOBBS FERRY, N.Y.—The Children's Village, vocational training school and home for underprivileged and maladjusted boys, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. It is a privately operated institution. With a faculty of thirty and facilities that would be the envy of many a small preparatory school, the Children's Village occupies 250 acres of rolling, wooded land high above the Hudson river.

While offering academic training, the school stresses manual arts and gives courses in carpentry, electricity, shoe repairing and automotive mechanics to prepare the boys for gainful occupations.

The school has turned out 50,000 youths, rehabilitated and trained for useful citizenship, in its first 100 years. The present enrollment is 400 boys, ranging from 10 to 18 years old.



PUERTO RICAN NO. 1 HERO . . . Returning to Puerto Rico, Sergeant John Rosado, member of Puerto Rico's 65th regiment, is given a tumultuous welcome on his arrival in San Juan from Korea. The sergeant is one of the grade A heroes of the war. He has won the silver star, the bronze star and the purple heart with cluster, and now has been recommended for the congressional medal of honor, first Puerto Rican to be so honored. Rosado saved the lives of seven comrades by throwing his body over a Red mortar shell. The explosion blew him six feet into the air. He is now home on rotation, recovering from wounds.



TIMELY SALE IN PRICE WAR . . . Not to be outbid by other leading department stores which have been in the throes of a price war, a department store on Union Square, New York City, dropped all barriers on prices on nationally-known watches. Many of the timepieces were listed at 50 per cent off their former retail price. Representatives of the major watch companies, seeking to control retail prices of goods that have passed from their ownership, have sought to serve injunctions against the sale and put an end to the consumers' field day. Here's a view of a watch department jammed with buyers.



WOMAN IN YANKEES' DUGOUT . . . A "lady" fan climbed over the wall in Cleveland stadium recently and invaded the private sanctuary of the New York Yankees dugout at the start of a second game of a double header between the Yanks and the Indians. Two employees of the stadium are firmly escorting the uninvited visitor off the baseball field, as fans and players in the dugout seem to get quite a bit of amusement from the incident. She was allegedly in pursuit of Joe DiMaggio.



SEEKS ANNULMENT . . . Maria Tallchief, New York ballerina, is pictured at supreme court where she has brought suit for annulment from her husband, George Balanchine. He wants her to continue dancing, but she wants family and home life.



POW CHOW . . . North Korean prisoners of war are literally digging in to the task of preparing chow for fellow Communist prisoners in a P.O.W. camp behind allied lines in Korea. Rice, the staple food preferred by Chinese and North Koreans, is made in batches of hundreds of pounds in these huge kettles. This gives a graphic idea of the job involved in caring for thousands of Communist prisoners in allied hands. More than 10,000 were captured recently.



SHARE ROOTS . . . Two Korean boys from orphanage at Pusan, Korea, happily share one pair of cowboy boots sent to them by the people of Akron, Ohio. Each of the boys has a leg missing. Clothing finds eager acceptance by young.