

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
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Washington.—Immediately after the armistice in 1918, the country was suddenly awakened to the fact that living costs were extraordinarily high. It was a condition that struck close home to everyone. It was a condition that developed an unusual emotion. There followed, naturally, a wave that engulfed hundreds of thousands of people who felt that they were being subjected to high prices that were unjustified.

Living Costs

Next in the chain of events and still continuing came labor troubles. The New Deal avowedly was on the side of labor and against employers. Strikes followed in increasing numbers. The results of this combination of factors and circumstances now are showing. Considered from any angle, one can not fail to see why they constitute a cycle of events that lead to higher prices.

When the dollar was cheaper by devaluation, more dollars were required to feed a family than had been required before. Workers felt this sting. They demanded more dollars in pay for their work. Pressure from the New Deal administration together with labor's use of the strike weapon forced business to pay higher wages.

But, business must live. It can not live unless it gets back its costs of production. Agriculture can not subsist unless it receives a reasonable price for its production. Neither agriculture nor industry will go ahead unless there is a reward in the shape of a profit. Consequently, neither agriculture nor industry is going to absorb these increased costs alone. The natural and the only way it has to get back those expenditures is by charging higher prices to the buyers of those products. Thus, we have the complete cycle—and the consumer, as usual, is the goat. The consumer pays and if that consumer be not in a position to enforce a higher return for the services he renders, he is caught between the upper and nether millstones. It appears that the consumer is fast getting himself into the grip of that vise.

In connection with this increasing price level, and the dangers inherent in the general situation, I think credit ought to be given to President Eccles, of the Federal Reserve board of governors, for the bold statement he made a few days ago. Mr. Eccles warned the country very frankly what the dangers are in a situation where labor continues to clamor for a greater share of the profits of commerce and industry and where labor's leadership seeks to take advantage of the inability of employers to protect themselves.

The Eccles statement took occasion to link labor's position with the general money market and the effect labor's position is having on the country as a whole. He referred to the demands of some labor leaders for a working week of 30 hours and while not completely discarding that theory, he gave the very definite impression that shorter hours do not constitute a solution for our present problem.

"Increased wages and shorter hours," said Mr. Eccles, "when they limit or actually reduce production are not at this time in the interest of the public in general or in the real interest of the workers themselves. When wage increases are passed along to the public, and particularly when industries take advantage of any existing situation to increase prices far beyond increased labor costs, such action is shortsighted and an indefensible policy from every standpoint."

"Wage increases and shorter hours are justified and wholly desirable when they result from increasing production per capita and represent a better distribution of the profits of industry. When they retard and restrict production and cause price inflation, they result in throwing the buying power of the various groups in the entire economy out of balance, working a particular hardship upon agriculture, the unorganized workers, the recipients of fixed incomes and all consumers."

The upward spiral of wages and prices into inflationary price levels can be as disastrous as the downward spiral of deflation. If such conditions develop, the government should intervene in the public interest by taking such action as is necessary to correct the abuses.

"The remedy for a price inflation when the country has unused man power, natural resources and capital, is through more, not less production, through an orderly, balanced use of these three fundamental factors and not by creating a needless, artificial shortage of any one of them."

Thus we have brought into bold relief a criticism of the final factor entering into the present increasing price level. I refer to the artificial shortage in food products that resulted from the ridiculous crop control program that was accomplished through AAA. We are now paying the price for the destruction of 6,000,000 little pigs.

I said at the beginning of this discussion that a calm examination of the factors involved was necessary now if it ever were necessary in history.

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borrow money; the criticisms were continued because loans simply were not being made and no examination of the reason why loans were not being made ever was undertaken.

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NEWS NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST

A Brief Summary of Events of Special Interest to Oregon, Washington and Idaho Communities.

Vale, Ore.—Eighty-five per cent of the 80,000 acres of new lands in the Vale and Owyhee projects has been settled. Settlers continue to pour in. Offices at Vale and Ontario receive between 500 and 600 inquiries a month.

Moscow, Ida.—Representing 75 of the county's more than 100 school districts, Latah trustees met here this afternoon, talked school problems and conditions and re-elected last year's officers. Superintendent David Ross and Fred Gertje, president, led the discussions.

Grants Pass, Ore.—The packed pear crop of the Rogue River valley for last year has been largely marketed. All Boses and Comice have been sold. Only 35,000 to 40,000 boxes of D'Anjou and 60,000 to 65,000 Winter Nells remain in storage plants.

Kelso, Wash.—Cowlitz county's addition to its courthouse, for which Ray Weatherby, Longview architect, has completed preliminary plans, will more than double the size of the structure. It would be four stories in height instead of three, as with the existing building.

Grand Coulee Dam, Wash.—When concrete placing really gets under way, the company will be placing "mud" in the forms of the dam in what probably will be all-time world record speed, it was believed, when government engineers said that the schedule will call for 400,000 yards of concrete a month.

Lewiston, Ida.—Fire destroyed the second story of a downtown building and menaced other structures in the heart of Lewiston's business district late last week. Fire Chief Marion Pierstorff estimated the damage at between \$75,000 and \$80,000. Origin of the blaze was not determined immediately.

Sandpoint, Ida.—Work will commence next week on the Church street underpass, the district office of the bureau of highways reports. The underpass is a \$24,000 project. A \$40,000 road project at Turner bay calling for construction of fills and approaches will start early next week, the officials said.

Tillamook, Ore.—Traveling de luxe—and part way in their own special train—17 of Tillamook county's Guernsey and Holstein "infants"—average 10 days old—have been shipped to Malad, Ida. C. H. Bergstrom, county agent, received the orders, and the calves were shipped to County Agent D. E. Warren at Malad, who will distribute the babies to dairymen there.

Grants Pass, Ore.—Wholesale marketing of the approximately 14,000,000 gladiolus bulbs produced in the Rogue River valley in 1936 is virtually complete, as growers are preparing to plant this month for the 1937 season. Value of last year's crop is about the same as the previous year—between \$250,000 and \$300,000—it was reported by H. G. Plummer, president of the Grants Pass Gladiolus society.

INDIANS MAINTAIN SUIT
Lewiston, Ida.—Representatives of Nez Perce Indians met here before District Judge Miles S. Johnson and signed a renewal of their agreement with Attorney F. M. Goodwin, Washington, D. C., to represent them in the \$3,000,000 suit against the United States government for alleged violations of the treaties of 1855, 1863 and 1893.

The case now is on the docket of the United States court of appeals. Goodwin was first assistant secretary of the interior under President Coolidge.

SEAL PATROL LEAVES
Astoria, Ore.—The coastguard cutter Onondaga, watchdog of one of the largest families in the animal kingdom, the thousands of lazily trekking seals migrating to their midnight sun resort in Alaska, has gone on the seal patrol. For 30 miles along the Oregon and Washington coast, the migrating seals stretch out as they frolic on their way north.

This year the Onondaga will escort the colony only to Juan de Fuca where another coastguard vessel continues the vigil against poachers which prey on the valuable fur animal if the opportunity arises. Formerly the Onondaga proceeded to the summer home of the seals at Pribiloff Island.

Boise, Ida.—Lewis Williams, commissioner of welfare for six years, was appointed director of charitable institutions. Under provisions of an act of the last legislature, the governor becomes commissioner of the department.

Yakima, Wash.—A month ago a baby elk was killed by a logging truck in the upper Naches district. The baby's mother would not budge from the spot where the calf was struck. Last Sunday the mother elk died of a broken heart.

What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

"Benefit" Promises.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—Maybe "benefits" are being overdone—indeed, some are rackets wearing the mask of charity—but even so, if a good trouper has promised to show up, you'd think he would prove he's a good trouper by showing up.

There have been cases out here when there were listed enough notables to make a whole constellation of stars, but what resulted was a milky way of amateurs and unknowns.

Those last-minute alibis for non-appearance are not always true ones. The real facts may be:

A night club cutup has been unexpectedly taken sober and so isn't funny.

A darling of the screen thinks he did enough when he allowed the use of his name, so he spends the evening congenially posing for profile photographs.

An actor is busy trying to decide whether he'll sell his yacht and buy a racing stable or sell his racing stable and buy a yacht.

An actress suddenly remembers she has an engagement over the Arizona line to be married some more.

Staying at home to post up the diary used to be an excuse, but dairy-keeping is now out—oh, absolutely!

Talking Fish.

PROF. ISAAC GINSBURG of the United States bureau of fisheries solemnly vows he has heard those tiny aquatic creatures known as sea-horses communicating with one another by speech and he suspects other species do the same thing.

Undoubtedly so. I can confirm this discovery by a story Drury Underwood used to repeat. Drury said a gentleman ordered whitefish in a Chicago restaurant. When the portion arrived the patron sniffed at it and then, in a confidential undertone, began talking, seemingly to himself.

The waiter ranged up.

"Anything wrong, sir?" he inquired.

"Oh, no," said the patron, "I was just talking to the fish."

"Talking?"

"Certainly. I said to him: 'Well, how're tricks out in Lake Michigan?' And he said: 'I wouldn't know. It's been so long since I left there I can't remember anything about it.'"

The Race to Arms.

ITALY sees Britain's bet of \$7,500,000,000 to be spent on war defense during the next five years, and raises it by decreasing militarization of all classes between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five, which means a trained fighting force of 8,000,000 ready for immediate mobilization, adding as a side wager the promise of "total sacrifice, if required, of civil necessities. . . for attainment of maximum. . . military needs."

This means, of course, that France and Germany and Russia must chip in with taller stacks than before, and thus the merry game goes on until some nation, in desperation, calls some other nation's bluff and all go down together in a welter of blood and bankruptcy and stark brutality.

The world has been 5,000 years patching together the covering called civilization, but experience shows that this sorry garment may be rent to tatters in an hour.

Maniacs and Motors.

DISPATCHES tell of a slaying automobile which chased a citizen clear up on the sidewalk and nailed him. This is a plain breach of the ethics governing our most popular national pastime—that of mowing down the innocent bystander.

Among our outstanding motor maniacs it has already been agreed that once a foot passenger reaches the pavement, he is out of bounds and cannot be put back in play until somebody shoves him into the roadway again. Otherwise the pedestrian class would speedily be exterminated, whereas its members are valuable for target practice when an operator is building up to the point where he is qualified to sideswipe a car full of women and children while going seventy miles an hour, or meet a fast train on equal terms at a grade crossing.

By all means let us clarify the rules so that the sport of destroying human life on the highroads shall not suffer through the overzeal of amateur homicides. Remember our proud boast that we lead all the world in traffic horrors.

IRVIN S. COBB.
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Records Help in Improving Sheep

Systematic Check Is Urged to Produce Better Wool and Mutton.

By L. K. Bear, Animal Husbandry Specialist, Ohio State University.—WNU Service.

One line of pencil work a year for each ewe in the farm flock may help materially in improving the returns from wool and mutton, as a written record is a great aid in culling inferior animals.

Profits from sheep depend a great deal upon producing lambs and wool which will bring top market prices and that is impossible if the breeding flock lacks uniformity. Fine wool ewes should shear from 10 to 14 pounds of wool which will grade Delaine or fine combing, and coarse wools should shear 8 to 11 pounds that will grade as combing wool.

Records kept at shearing time will furnish a basis for taking out of the flock those ewes which have light fleeces or which produce wool of a poorer grade than the flock average. The owner of the flock knows at shearing time which ewes should be discarded but it is doubtful if he can remember the fleece weights unless a written record is kept or the culls are marked.

Many of the light lambs that are not ready for market when the others are ready for sale are late lambs caused by shy breeding ewes or they are unthrifty lambs from ewes which are poor milkers. Ewes in either of these classifications should be discarded, and, again, a written record will help in identifying the culls.

Simple record forms that provide means for keeping a check on each ewe in the flock have been prepared by the departments of animal husbandry and rural economics. One line across the sheet provides space for all the records needed on a ewe for a year. County agricultural agents can supply these flock record forms upon request.

Seeds Should Be Kept Dry While in Storage

Crop seeds protected from dampness in storage will have a better chance of germinating and producing strong plants even when handicapped by unfavorable weather.

Dampness in storage has a tendency to start the germinating process, and this weakens the seed, explained Dr. R. F. Poole, plant pathologist with the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment station.

Irish potatoes stored in banks should be aired frequently to prevent decay.

Corn, small grain, and other seed should be kept in lead-proof buildings with adequate ventilation to prevent the accumulation of too much moisture.

However, this does not mean that the seed should be openly exposed to infestation by insect pests, Dr. Poole cautioned.

Goats for Food

In some sections of the United States many goats of the milk type, especially kids, are annually consumed, states a writer in the Missouri Farmer. In some parts of the South kids are considered as a delicacy and are in demand. They are sold for slaughter when from 8 to 12 weeks of age. The flesh of young goats, or kids, is palatable and has a flavor suggesting lamb. If properly cooked, the meat from a mature milk goat is also good eating, provided the animal has been properly fed and is in good condition. The prices of goats sold on the market for slaughter are always considerably less than those received for sheep. Goats do not fatten and carry flesh like sheep.

Salt for Asparagus

At one time gardeners felt that unless salt was applied to asparagus beds they could not look for best results, but it has been demonstrated beyond question that it is not necessary. Its application, however, will do no harm and it will certainly keep ordinary weeds from growing. As much as 500 pounds to the acre may be used, but whether this will kill couch grass I cannot say, says a grower in the Montreal Herald. Apply in spring. If rhubarb plants are lifted and divided in spring, no stalks should be picked from them during that summer.

Infant Artichoke Industry

A plant for the processing of Jerusalem artichokes into food products and eventually (it is hoped) into power alcohol is being erected at Gering, Nebraska. Farmers and businessmen of the region are reported to be interested in the possibilities of this crop because of its ability to withstand drought.—Country Home Magazine.

Balanced Ration Pays

A comparison of a herd feeding a balanced ration and one feeding corn alone was made with the following results in the Linn No. 3, Iowa, C. T. A., writes Otto Bruns, tester, in Hoard's Dairyman. A herd that was fed a balanced ration was also fed according to individual production, and produced butterfat at a cost of 11.5 cents per pound. The herd that was fed corn alone had a production cost of 24.9 cents per pound, a difference of 13.4 cents.

'Happy Bluebirds' Motifs for Linens

Bluebirds are for happiness—so runs the legend. This dainty pattern in 10-to-the-inch crosses will add a cheery touch indeed to your towels, pillow cases, scarfs or cloths. Do these simple motifs in



Pattern 1315

natural color, or two shades of one color. Pattern 1315 contains a transfer pattern of two motifs 5 1/4 by 1 1/4 inches; two motifs 6 by 7 3/4 inches and two motifs 5 1/2 by 7 inches; and four motifs 3 1/2 by 5 1/4 inches; color suggestions; illustrations of all stitches needed; material requirements.

Send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) for this pattern to The Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Write plainly your name, address and pattern number.

"Quotations"

For all the cruelty and stupidity in the world today, man has not done so badly in so brief a period.—Henry Morganthau.

There can be no permanence for a nation whose people have only a selfish interest in its welfare.—John I. Pershing.

The people today no longer get their excitement from reading poetry—they get it from machines going fast.—John Masefield.

The old-fashioned boyhood ideals are what will keep this country going.—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

It is vain to trust in wrong; as much of evil, so much of loss, is the formula of human history.—Theodore Parker.

War's Object in a Word

When, in the year 1800, war between Britain and France was at its bitterest, an English statesman was challenged in parliament to define in one sentence the object of the war "without any 'ifs' and 'buts' and special pleading ambiguity." He returned this answer, an answer that might be given today: "I know not whether I can do it in one sentence, but I can state it in one word. It is 'security'—security against a danger."

Some Odd Tricks

Once there lived an Austrian empress who drank mare's milk to enhance her ability as an equestrienne, an American clergyman who wore a heavy veil during the greater part of his life to atone for the accidental killing of a friend, and an English millionaire who put a horse in solitary confinement for life, in a pitch-dark stall, to punish the animal for losing a race.—Collier's Weekly.

Economy in China

In China, where frugality is both a necessity and an art, numerous farmers and coolies save money by wearing trousers without seats, observes a writer in Collier's Weekly. They see no point in buying a whole pair when a dependable shirttail affords both ample protection and propriety.

FOR COLDS

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