

WILL GAMBLING AND AMERICAN FEED THE WORLD

Present Food Prices Not Justified by Law of Supply and Demand Are Fixed by Big Extortioners, Says Trust Buster—Artificial Manipulation Cause of Inflated Prices.

By HERBERT A. EMERSON. (Herbert A. Emerson is one of the greatest American authorities on food speculation and known as the "trust buster." He was largely responsible for prosecution and conviction of wealthy members of New York's "poultry trust." He now is helping Special Attorney Robert W. Childs prosecute food gamblers in Chicago.)

Present food prices are not justified by the law of supply and demand, but have been reached only thru systematic and well contrived plans by food extortioners, manipulators, speculators, market riggers and traders.

The board of trade is simply an instrument used by unscrupulous dealers.

Largest operators on the Chicago board of trade are large grain elevator owners along different railroad lines stretching thru Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Here early in fall these large grain operators begin to buy and store wheat and other grains as they are threshed.

Basis Farmer Is Paid.

The farmer is paid on the basis of the August, September and October markets on the board of trade in Chicago.

By December 1 from 70 to 80 per cent of all grains is in the hands of speculators. It is past history and will be history for years to come, if the government does not intervene, that at that season the speculators begin to trade in May options, especially in the small grains, to a very large extent.

For many years it has been the intent of these buyers and holders of enormous stocks of grain to force the price as high as possible on the surplus stocks which they are carrying.

Thus we find that the big part of the grain has been taken from the farmers at a very moderate price, as was done in the summer and fall of 1916, and then we find that the price in the spring of 1917 is elevated to a tremendous point and the excuse used is that there was a short crop and that the export demand had caused this great rise in price.

Can Feed the World.

But with the very best effort made in the matter of production the United States can produce not only all she wants for her own consumption, but she can produce more than double the amount of surplus that there are shipping facilities to carry abroad.

On account of the extreme price that has been paid for a certain part of the surplus to go abroad, we find that the people of the United States are being charged for all the grain that is consumed at home on a basis of the very highest point reached for grain to go abroad.

In the meat industry we find a similar condition. During the big packing season of this year hogs sold at from \$10 to \$12 per hundred in the Chicago market, and then, after the hams and bacon were put away and the lard had been accumulated in cold storage warehouses, when the ordinary run of hogs had become so small all the pork killed could be consumed as fresh pork, the meat packers began to bid up the price until it reached the extreme of \$17 for live hogs in the Chicago market.

Without necessity and with no excuse except that of extorting a big profit from the poor consumers of the new and old worlds, these same packers have elevated the price of all their meat products in storage to a level with the extreme price paid during April and May for the few hogs shipped from the farms that time.

DENMARK LOSES 150 SHIPS AT SEA

LONDON, May 22.—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says that since the beginning of the war Denmark has lost 150 ships through submarines or mines. The destruction of the ships has been accompanied by the deaths of 210 Danish seamen.

GERMAN COIN NOW FOMENTING REVOLT IN SPAIN

Madrid Now "Spy Capital of the World"—Last Outpost of German Intrigue in Europe—Fixed Price on Destruction of Allied Ships by Bombs—Secret Bases for U-Boats.

BY K. W. PAYNE. (Staff Special.) MADRID, Spain, May 22.—The last outpost of German intrigue in Europe, and the spy capital of the world—that is what Madrid has today become.

With the entry of the United States, Cuba and Panama into the world war, the seething mass of German plotting in Spain has taken on a greater significance than ever, and one especially vital to America.

All the Teuton bomb plots which have made the Kaiser's agents so odious in America have been paralleled here in Spain, and with even more sinister intent. German money has been held out lavishly. It is generally believed here that a fixed price of \$600 was put on the successful destruction of an allied vessel by bombs.

Secret U-Boat Basis.

The Spanish government has labored to stamp out criminal German plotting here. Secret submarine bases along the coasts have been found, bomb making plants raided and wireless stations put out of business. But less violent forms of German propaganda still flourish.

The Spanish clerical element is pro-German. The church here feels it draws its strength from autocracy. Moreover, it is hostile to France, which it calls "atheistic."

The aristocrats, the reactionaries, and important parts of the army are pro-German.

But among the common people of Spain you find a different situation. The great clash of issues between militarism and democracy is understood as distinctly by the thinkers, the liberals and the common people of Spain as it is anywhere else on earth.

Following Spanish labor's recent threat of a revolutionary general strike, many confident predictions were made that Russia's revolution would be followed by one in Spain. But here and in Barcelona, which industrially is the Vesuvius crater of Europe, the situation appears far less simple than that.

Fomenting Revolution.

According to certain experienced students of the situation, German money has secretly been fomenting an ostensibly democratic revolution.

Why? To complicate matters for the allies along the French frontier. The Germans have wanted to prove to the Spanish government that the cause of the allies was revolutionary, hostile to all established dynasties. It is said they actually hoped thus to persuade the Spanish authorities, in self defense, to throw in their lot with the central powers the defenders of monarchy.

The immediate occasion for general unrest, on which the Teuton plotters are said to have seized, has been the food and fuel shortage and the increase in cost of living.

Tho the Romanones government declared martial law and quelled instantly the recent menace of revolution, there is still ample reason for the admonition, "Watch Spain."

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA AGREE OVER POLAND

BERLIN, May 22.—It is learned on good authority that a complete agreement has been reached between Germany and Austria on the Polish question as the result of the conference at great headquarters between Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg and Count Czernin, the Austria-Hungarian foreign minister. Count Czernin returned to Vienna today after a visit to the western front.

HILLQUIT, BERGER GOING TO STOCKHOLM

CHICAGO, May 22.—Morris Hillquit, "New York; Victor L. Berger, Milwaukee, and Algernon Lee, New York, will represent the American socialist party as delegates to the conference at Stockholm, Sweden. Announcement of the selection of the three delegates was made today by the national executive committee of the socialist party. The delegates will be uninstructed.

ATLANTA FIRE LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$3,500,000

Southern City Goes Actively to Work to Care for Destitute From 5000 Homes Destroyed in Fire That Raged Thru 75 Blocks—No Outside Aid—Guardsmen Utilized.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 22.—From 10,000 to 15,000 persons are homeless as a result of yesterday's fire that swept approximately seventy-five blocks of residence property causing a loss of \$3,500,000. It was estimated today. Preparations have been made to feed 5000 homeless.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 22.—Atlanta went actively to work today to care for the destitute persons from 5000 homes destroyed in the fire that raged yesterday afternoon and last night thruout seventy-five blocks. The flames were checked only after dynamiting of the beautiful homes on Ponce De Leon avenue. The property loss was estimated at more than \$3,500,000. The fire started in a warehouse and drove first north and then northeast, at some points a block wide and at times half a mile in width. It crossed Ponce de Leon avenue at one point and swept down the boulevard for a block.

It was the greatest fire in Atlanta's history since civil war days, when General Sherman, terming the city the backbone of the confederacy, decreed that it must be burned. In property loss and hardships it was even greater, for the city that General Sherman destroyed had only 10,000 inhabitants.

Destitute Cared For.

Destitute persons from the burned area which included negro homes and costly residences of white people were cared for by the local Red Cross and the Associated Charities. Hundreds were fed last night and today. Preparations were completed today to care for 5000 persons.

Mayor Candler and President Ivan Allen, of the local chamber of commerce have agreed that no outside aid would be needed. Both expressed their appreciation of scores of offers telegraphed to them. Only one person is known to have died as a result of the fire. Mrs. Bessie Hodges died of shock after her home was destroyed. Injuries were remarkably few.

When the flames began advancing northward they drove before them hundreds of persons. Automobile trucks, express wagons and every conceivable vehicle was pressed into service to save personal belongings. It was not until the fire reached within a block or two of Ponce de Leon avenue, an hour before dark fell, that order began to come out of the confusion.

Militia in Charge.

National guardsmen and men from the officers' training camp at McPherson took charge of the situation. After this the abandoning of homes in the threatened districts was carried out consistently. The soldiers remained on duty all night. Furniture, bed clothes and all the odds and ends from the many homes littered the streets, which were made impassable in many cases by fallen wires and splinters from dynamited houses. The soldiers allowed nothing to be moved during the night and blocked civilians from the fire zone and a wide area around it. Only one case of attempted looting was reported and that resulted in an arrest.

The burned area is roughly defined as including all that territory between Fort street on the west and the boulevard on the east between Deatur street and Ponce de Leon avenue.

LULL REPORTED ON ITALIAN FRONT

ROME, May 22.—A lull occurred yesterday on the Italian front, no further infantry action being undertaken. Austrian attacks east of Gorizia and at several points on the Trentino front were repulsed, the war office announced today.

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ALLOTMENT OF LIBERTY BONDS TO CHART CITIES MADE

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Definite allotments of liberty bonds have been placed tentatively, it was revealed today, by the treasury department opposite the names of the chief cities of the country, varying from a few million dollars to approximately \$750,000,000 in the case of New York. These allotments represent the sums which, in the opinion of treasury officials, should be subscribed by the population of the various cities. They were obtained by computations involving the total resources of all banks of the cities, and make liberal allowances for the failure of any one community to take its full quota of the bonds.

Included in the allotments to the various cities are allowances for suburban towns and cities and the territory which is financially tributary thereto.

Allotments have been computed by federal reserve districts, as the central headquarters of each section of the country will be the federal reserve bank of the district. Inasmuch as the total resources of all financial institutions in the country are placed at approximately \$35,000,000,000, it was estimated the first offering in bonds would result in the contribution by the public of a sum equal to about 6 per cent of the total banking resources of the country. "This big subscription, it was pointed out, however, will not result in a diminution of bank resources to this extent, as the proceeds will be re-deposited, to large extent, in the

FEDERAL PLANS TO FORCE DOWN ANTHRACITE PRICES

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Measures to force down anthracite coal prices will be taken, the federal trade commission announced today, if producers and dealers do not adhere to their recent promise to cease extortionate practices. The commission issued this statement on the subject:

"In its interim report of May 4 to the United States senate the federal trade commission promised that its utmost efforts would be used to assure fair distribution and fair prices of anthracite coal.

"The commission has sent agents into different parts of the country who will observe closely thruout the anthracite trade the operation plans formulated at recent conferences of the commission with operators, jobbers and representative retailers for bringing down prices to moderate levels and keeping them there.

These field agents will report promptly to the commission for appropriate action any renewal of the intolerable abuses that marked the activities of certain elements of the trade during recent months.

The independent operators have realized that the situation calls for public spirited action on their part and it is expected that they will reduce their present prices to moderate levels for the season and co-operate in every way with the commission."

financial institutions through which subscriptions will find their way to the federal reserve banks and to the treasury.

ULSTER STUMBLING BLOCK TO IRELAND'S HOME RULE PLAN

LONDON, May 22.—While most of the morning newspapers editorially welcome an Irish convention as a hopeful means for settling the difficulties in Ireland, one of them expresses confidence in its success and none regards it absolutely certain that the convention will meet. It is pointed out that although the speeches in parliament showed a remarkable change in the atmosphere and that the discussion and the outlook on the whole is encouraging, the crux of the difficulty, namely the exclusion of northern Ulster, remains.

Hope, however, is based on the utterance of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who for many years has been an antagonist of home rule and on the speech of Sir Edward Carson, which is regarded as a better augury than that of Sir John Lonsdale, secretary and whip of the Irish Unionist party. Satisfaction is expressed by several of the editorial writers that the settlement of the Irish question has now been removed from Great Britain's hands and Ireland has been given the opportunity to work out its own destiny.

The satisfaction is accompanied by the earnest hope that the opportunity will be seized by the Irishmen.

The Times commends the Ulstermen for acting "with patriotism and courage."

The Daily Chronicle urges the convening at the earliest moment of the convention, saying that on the crest of the incoming tide it may be carried safely to land.



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