



PRESIDENT CUTS STEEL PRICES ONE-HALF

PRICE FIXED FOR ALLIES AND PUBLIC

Uniform Schedule for Government and All Purchasers Representing Reductions of From 40 to 70 Per Cent in Present Market Quotations Approved by President for Steel and Steel Products—War Industries Board Supervise Distribution.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Uniform steel prices for the American government, the public and the allies, which represent reductions of from 40 to 70 per cent in present market quotations, were approved today by President Wilson.

The prices were determined in an agreement reached between steel producers and the war industries board after conferences lasting more than a month. They were based on cost of production figures furnished by the federal trade commission, which made an investigation at the president's direction.

Supervise Distribution.
Under powers conferred in the priority of transportation act, the war industries board will supervise distribution of steel in a manner best calculated to win the war.

The agreement reached stipulates that there shall be no wage reductions in the steel industry and that producers shall exert themselves to maintain capacity production.

The prices will become effective immediately and are subject to revision January 1, 1918.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Steel prices agreed upon between the government and producers were announced today as follows:

Steel bars at Pittsburgh and Chicago \$2.90 per hundredweight. The recent price was \$3.50.

Other prices agreed upon, all subject to revision January 1, 1918, but to become effective immediately, follow:

Iron ore basis lower lake ports, price agreed upon \$5.05 gross ton. No change.

Prices Reduced Over Half.

Coke—Connellsville, price agreed upon \$6 net ton; recent price \$16 a ton; a reduction of 62.5 percent.

Steel plates, basis Chicago and Pittsburgh, price agreed upon \$3.25 hundredweight; recent price \$11 hundredweight; a reduction of 70.5 percent.

Pig iron, price agreed upon \$22 gross ton; recent price \$58 gross ton; a reduction of 43.1 percent.

Steel bars, Pittsburgh and Chicago basis, price agreed upon \$2.90 per hundredweight; recent price \$3.50 hundredweight; a reduction of 47.3 percent.

Steel shapes, basis Chicago and Pittsburgh, price agreed upon \$3 hundredweight; recent price \$6 hundredweight, a reduction of 50 percent.

This announcement of prices, agreed upon after many months of investigation by the federal trade commission, and conferences between government officials and the leading men of the iron and steel business, was accompanied by the following statement:

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ARGENTINE NAVY ORDERED MOBILIZED

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 24.—Mobilization of the Argentine navy has been ordered at a rendezvous 37 kilometers from Buenos Aires. There is also unusual military activity in the republic. Although this is ostensibly due to the general strike, a high official said today that the general staff has its eyes open to "other necessities."

ARTILLERY DUEL IN PROGRESS ON WESTERN FRONT

Infantry Has Relief From Recent Hard Fighting—German Reaction at Langemarck Loses Ground to British—Activity at Lens Indicated on Part of Canadians.

LONDON, Sept. 24.—German heavy guns were active early this morning on both banks of the river Scarpe, on the Arras front in France, Field Marshal Haig reported today. A German raiding party near La Basséeville was driven away after a sharp fight last night with the British.

By Associated Press, Sept. 24.—Heavy cannonading was again in progress last night on the Flanders battle front northeast of Ypres, but the infantry had a relief from the recent hard fighting. The last German reaction was not encouraging enough, apparently, to warrant a speedy repetition, as Field Marshal Haig in his dispatches last night reported that when the Germans assaulted the British lines northeast of Langemarck yesterday they not only were repulsed, but lost ground in a British counter drive.

Signs of possibly important activity impending are appearing in other sections of the British front, notably in the Arras region near the Scarpe and in the vicinity of Lens, which city is still being closely pressed by the Canadians. Considerable artillery activity is announced from these sectors.

The artillery on both sides is also notably busy on the French front in the Verdun region. Last night its activity reached the stage of intense violence north of the fortresses in the Fosses and Chaumes wood region, Paris reports.

GERMANS COMMENT UPON EXPOSURES

LONDON, Sept. 24.—In commenting on the latest Washington disclosures concerning the activities of Count Von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, the Koleschnische Zeitung, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to Reuters' Limited, says:

"This affair, if true, has a very disagreeable character, and it is highly regrettable. The American government, God knows how, was able to get a hold apparently of the whole collection of German diplomatic documents which it is now exploiting against us and Sweden. What the state department remarks about the relation between Von Bernstorff's policy and the U-boat war can be recognized as a misleading invention by every one who knows the history preceding the U-boat campaign."

ITALIAN PEERS' ATTACK REPLIES

ROME, Sept. 23.—The entire liberal press continues to attack the reply of Germany and Austria to the pope's peace proposal as "a unique example of revolting cynicism."

The Corriere d'Italia has modified the tone of its comment from criticism to that of mild approval. It says that the replies, although "reticent to represent adhesion to the papal proposals, can be considered as evidence of the success of the pontifical initiative."

The same paper remarks that the revolution is noticed in German public opinion towards peace and favor of a more democratic government is unlikely to be arrested.

Girl Soldiers Help British Troops at Front

English Women Prove They Can Excel in All War Work Except Actual Fighting—4000 on Job Actively Aiding Brothers to Win War—Called Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

LONDON, Sept. 24.—Behind the zone of fire at the British front in France, billets for 4000 girl soldiers have just been completed.

And the girl soldiers are already on the job, actively helping their brother Tommies win the war.

They are snappily disciplined members of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps—the "W. A. A. C." They have enlisted for one year, or the duration of the war. Which implies that it's likely to be a long war yet; and when it has finally been won there will be serious question whether women or men did most.

Short of actual fighting, there are few kinds of work behind the front these girl soldiers will not soon have taken over. Drivers in the motor transport service, orderlies, military telegraph and telephone workers, airplane repairers, mechanics, cooks, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors and messengers—the list of their occupations is endless.

For every four Tommies, three Tommies are released to do actual fighting, the only war work in which men can still excel.

It is hardly sixty years since any war service was thought impossible for women. Florence Nightingale opened up the hospital field. Today almost the only men in the big military hospitals are the wounded soldiers and the surgeons. In the Third London General hospital, caring for 2000 soldiers, are 500 women, nurses, orderlies, waitresses, cooks and masseuses. They are quicker, gentler and more efficient.

The munitions works are practically run by munitionettes, 25 to 50 per cent more efficient than men.

The ministry of munitions has just asked for more women to make airplanes. In this work of extreme delicacy, such as measuring to the thousandth part of an inch, their hands and eyes are more precise.

Suitably accommodated in camps and barracks behind the front, and under strict military discipline, their numbers are continually increasing, and the importance of their war work cannot be overestimated.

The women soldiers at the bases in France and on the lines of communication are paid from \$100 to \$130 a year, with free board and lodging.

TEMPORARY SCALE RECALLS STRIKERS AT SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 24.—Unions affiliated with the Iron Trades council here were today sending out notices of special meetings at which the question will be taken up of ratifying the temporary wage schedule agreed upon last night by their conference committee and the employers.

The temporary schedule last night ended the week's strike of 30,000 metal trades unionists. Their demands for a \$6 minimum day, an advance of 50 per cent over the scale carried in the compact which expired Sept. 15, will be left for final adjudication to the federal board of conciliation.

MAYOR PLANS TO BUY UNITED RAILROADS

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 24.—A plan for immediate purchase of the United Railroads, a street car property, by the city of San Francisco was presented to Mayor James Rolph, Jr., today by officials of the road.

The company's service has been disturbed the past six weeks by a strike of 1750 platform men.



Britain's Women's army auxiliary corps in their last drill in Hyde Park, London, prior to leaving for the front in France.

WILSON'S APPEAL TO SHIPWORKERS AT PORTLAND SPURNED

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 24.—Approximately 4000 workmen in three Portland steel shipyards laid down their tools at 10 a. m. today and joined the 3000 men who walked out of the Portland wooden shipyards recently to enforce their demands for higher wages and the closed shop. Work on government contracts at the steel yards was halted by the strike.

The men walked out today despite the efforts of President Wilson to keep them at work. Yesterday the union officials announced the president had wired the men asking them to continue at work, and assuring them they would receive fair treatment. At a mass meeting last night the men voted to wire the president their regrets that they were unable to comply with his request.

Portland's shipbuilding industry is practically paralyzed as a result of the strikes. Several wooden yards announced last week they would reopen today, but changed their plans when the men last night voted to continue the strike in the wooden yards.

PRESIDENT ASKS SHIPWORKERS TO REMAIN AT WORK

SEATTLE, Sept. 24.—Business agents of the fifteen unions of the Seattle metal trades council are in session to consider President Wilson's personal appeal to all Pacific coast shipyard workers to continue at work and trust to him for prompt and just action upon their demands. It is believed the appeal will prevent a strike in the steel yards here.

A conference of all the metal, building, transportation and other trades union directly or indirectly connected with shipbuilding was begun early this afternoon. It was expected that the net result of the conference would be the drafting of a personal appeal to President Wilson, asking him to make an effort to settle the eight hour lumber strike in this state at the same time as the metal workers wage scale, thus bringing about industrial peace in the shipbuilding and all other industries.

GENERAL STRIKE ON ARGENTINE RAILROADS

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 24.—A general strike on eleven Argentinean railroads began at midnight last night. Traffic has been absolutely paralyzed on all railroads except some small government lines in the interior. Not a wheel is moving on any railroad entering Buenos Aires.

EIGHT SHIPS OF FLOTILLA DESTROYED BY SUBMERSIBLES

HALIFAX, N. S., Sept. 24.—The British steamship *Virginian*, 6827 tons, formerly the *Allan* liner in trans-Atlantic passenger trade, is said to have been one of the victims of the massed attack by German submarines on a convoyed fleet of British merchant vessels off the Irish coast early this month.

An officer on a steamship now in Halifax said that eight steamships, including his own and not five, were destroyed and that the *Virginian*, seriously damaged and in a sinking condition managed to make the beach. The officer was unable to say definitely whether any U-boats were sunk by destroyers, as previously reported. "We were scattered over quite an area and our ship had her own troubles in getting away," he said. "The destroyers were busy, however, and I am quite sure some of them got what they were aiming at."

LAKE SEAMEN THREATEN STRIKE

CHICAGO, Sept. 24.—Victor Olander, head of the Lake Seamen's union and a member of the Illinois State Council of Defense, said today that a strike of members of his organization October 1 seems inevitable.

He explained that while count of the secret referendum vote recently conducted by mail does not begin until tonight, it is an open secret that the men are practically unanimous in voting to strike unless the Atlantic agreement, to which the federal government was a party, is extended to the Great Lakes.

Able seamen on the Great Lakes, he said, are paid \$72 a month during the summer. They are asking \$95, but the shipowners, he said, were willing to pay only \$85, which he said was the normal advance on October 1, owing to the approach of stormy weather. Navigation on the Great Lakes generally closes about the middle of December, and it is customary to pay a higher rate for work during the cold concluding months of the season.

ENID, Okla., Sept. 24.—A revolution of two million malecontents, nationwide in scope, backed by the I. W. W. and forty-eight affiliated organizations, including the Working Class union, in which it was planned to apply the torch to small cities, shoot officers of the government and demoralize communication was planned for July 27 last, according to the testimony today of Will Hoover, state witness in the trial of eleven anti-draft agitators.

PLAN MERGER OF MINORITY PARTIES AT CHICAGO MEET

CHICAGO, Sept. 24.—A political working agreement among the prohibitionists, progressives, socialists, single-taxers and union labor is said to be the purpose of a conference to be held here October 3.

There will be 100 delegates, twenty from each contingent, and they will meet behind closed doors.

Virgil G. Henshaw, chairman of the national committee of the prohibition party, would not predict that a new party was to be formed.

"Such a prediction would consign my own party to the scrap heap," he said.

Prohibition and progressive organs this week are expected to publish articles on the authority of Matthew Hale and Frederick H. Chase, respectively chairman and secretary of the national committee of the progressives, and Mr. Henshaw and Secretary Frances E. Beauchamp of the prohibitionists, advocating the "wedding of the two parties. Their plan would include membership of other "liberal" elements, joint headquarters in Chicago, New York and Pacific coast and gulf coast cities. They would work along harmonious lines for the election of at least forty selected congressmen in 1918.

CANADIAN RAILROAD TELEGRAPHERS STRIKE

TORONTO, Sept. 24.—Operators of the Great Northern Telegraph company from Calgary to Montreal are on strike today following meetings yesterday in which secret ballots were taken, all said to be in favor of the walkout.

The operators here left their keys at 11 a. m. the understanding being that other operators over the system would strike at the same hour.

S. J. Konenamp of Chicago, international president of the Commercial Telegraphers union, is here in charge of the strike.

SEATTLE STRIKERS RETURN TO WORK

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 24.—Striking union carpenters returned to work this morning on all jobs controlled by the Master Builders' association. The carpenters struck as part of the boycott on ten hour lumber. The master builders recommended that the men live up to their agreement with the Master Builders, and today's resumption of work was the result. Today's action does not affect the striking carpenters of the Seattle wooden shipyards.

SLACKERS WON EASY MONEY AT GERMAN HANDS

Wild and Noisy Session of Congress Over Bernstorff's \$50,000 Expenditure—Heflin Says German Sympathizers Permitted to Win at Gambling Den Kept by German.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—The house had a wild and noisy session today over the disclosure that Count Bernstorff, while German ambassador here, asked his government to authorize the expenditure of \$50,000 to influence congress.

Representative Norton of North Dakota attacked Representative Heflin of Alabama, who was quoted in a local newspaper as saying he could name a dozen congressmen who "had been acting suspiciously."

Heflin denied that the interview attributed to him was correct.

Representative Heflin then made an explanation, amid a flood of interruptions, ranging from groans to parliamentary objections, complaining to the last that he was denied a full hearing.

"I haven't said that any member got any money from the von Bernstorff fund," he said. "What I did say was that there were rumors that there was a gambling house in Washington, run by a German, where pacifists and slackers and others in sympathy with the German cause won easily."

"If the house decides to name an investigating committee and asks me to name the men that I think have not been loyal and have not been and are not now standing by the commander-in-chief, I'll name them. I can't prove anything. The intrigues of the German government cannot be found out easily, but a tree is known by its fruit."

A resolution by Representative Fordney, republican, of Michigan, designated to provide for a house investigation of Heflin's remarks was referred to the rules committee by Speaker Clark. What action will be taken on it is problematical.

MEANS PLEADS NOT GUILTY OF MURDER

CONCORD, N. C., Sept. 24.—Gaston B. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maud A. King, a wealthy widow, for whom he acted as business agent, pleaded not guilty when his preliminary examination opened today.

Mrs. King was mysteriously shot and killed near here August 29 last. In the first inquest Means testified that Mrs. King accidentally shot herself, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict to that effect. Later the case was reopened.

Dr. William H. Burmeister, chief coroner's physician of Chicago, testified that in his opinion it would have been impossible for Mrs. King to hold the pistol which inflicted her death wound in the woods near here on August 29.

KAISER ON VISIT TO RUMANIAN BATTLEFIELDS

LONDON, Sept. 24.—Emperor William, says a dispatch from Amsterdam to Reuters, has visited the battlefields in Rumania, and inspected the troops which participated in the campaign in Transylvania and Rumania in the autumn of 1916. These troops are now on the Moldavia battle front. Addressing the troops, Emperor William pointed out the worldwide historical importance economically for the home lands. The emperor concluded with the declaration that "if war was to continue it was not the Germans' fault."