

HIGH PRICES MEET UNIVERSAL REVOLT.

People Asked Why They are Taxed for European War.

The lay editor has been busy this week thinking over the price of provisions. Articles of necessity have certainly advanced in trail of the war in Europe. Innocent people are all over the world paying the price of militarism. But why should they? This is getting down to brass tacks and the people want to know. They see an unprecedented crop raised in this country of wheat and corn and the foreign market blocked by war. Why should the people pay more for what they eat when there is abundance of food and smaller outlet abroad than usual? The time has come when consumers are not satisfied with the time-worn cry of supply and demand. Moth-eaten platitudes of political economy have lost their force.

They not only deny that there is legitimate cause for inflation of prices, but they claim that there are adequate remedies at hand for manifest wrongs. The people are not helpless.

Two of the greatest nations in the world—the United States and Great Britain—have taken hold of the question with purpose and vigor. President Wilson has ordered a general investigation of the cost of living and his agents are busy all over the country. What the president expects to do about it is not clear. He may be banking on the power of publicity, or he may, as has been suggested, have in mind prosecutions for extortion. Whatever his purpose, it is old and good law that wherever there is a remedy. From Washington it is learned that reports to the department of Justice tell of the creation of artificial food price all along the line. A district attorney in Texas reported that granulated sugar had risen from \$4.60 to \$7.50 per hundred weight since a week ago; Swiss cheese from 25 to 38 cents, flour from \$4.75 to \$5.10, beef ribs from 18 to 21 cents per pound, sirloin 28 to 32 cents, pork loin 18 to 23 cents, and smoked ham from 20 to 22 cents. The district attorney suggested that small consumers are charged even higher prices than hotels and restaurants.

In England the strong hand of the government is to be felt. The idea of the nation taking over the whole provision business looks like full-blooded socialism, but it illustrates the fact that revolt is in the air and the people want to know—and intend to know—why they are taxed unnecessarily.

Washington is wide awake. "Speculation and not war is responsible for the suddenly increased cost of living in the United States," said at that city the other day Representative M. Clyde Kelly of Pennsylvania, author of the resolution presented the House directing an investigation of the high cost of food question.

"I am convinced," said Kelly, "that there is no occasion for the advance in prices seen during the past week. This advice is startling. I have just completed a tabulation showing the percentage of increase of twelve of the fifteen principal articles of food consumed in the average workman's family. This shows that in a single week there has been an advance in the necessities of life averaging 22 per cent.

"There is more food in the country today than ever before, and the prospect of more remaining here for many months.

"By all legitimate economic rules food should be cheaper rather than higher. Speculation is the only possible explanation.

"The beef trust is putting meats into cold storage to hold for famine prices in Europe, while gamblers in wheat and breadstuffs are forcing prices up on the prospects of rich hauls when the starved nations of Europe shall at least begin calling for their supply of grain.

"I want to see these things brought to light and the responsibility of this situation on the persons where it belongs. Then we can get after the remedy, which, in my opinion, ought to be drastic government regulation of cold storage, prohibiting storage beyond a certain length of time or storage for speculation, and the absolute prohibition of trading in futures."

The advance in the price of food in England is causing distress among the poor and the government is taking hold of the matter. The London Express states that the Government Committee, just appointed to deal with the question of food supplies, is considering the advisability of taking over complete control of food distribution throughout the country. The Cabinet Committee on Food Supplies met recently and representatives of certain great companies owning 3000 distributing shops and the Grocer's Federation, representing 14,000 shops and measures to be adopted to regulate the retail prices of groceries and provisions were discussed.

The government is seeking the co-

operation of the trades concerned in preventing an undue rise in prices, and has received satisfactory assurances of assistance. Evidence was given that the present demand on the stocks of shops is not justified by an actual shortage of supplies, but that excessive purchases were being made by needless alarmed customers, "whose unreasonable conduct," says the Home Office, "can not be too strongly deprecated."

What the House Wife learned About Prices.

House Wife—"How do you sell your potatoes today?"

Grocer—"I am sorry, but we have been obliged to advance the price two cents a pound."

H. W.—"Why what in the world has made that necessary?"

Grocer—"The war in Europe, you know potatoes is a great dish with Germans."

H. W.—"But what is that to do with potatoes in Utah?"

Grocer—"Everything. It will stop all importations of potatoes from Denmark this winter."

H. W.—"But has not Utah and Idaho potatoes enough for all this mountain country?"

Grocer—"Maybe. But we have to anticipate a call from the east."

H. W.—"Well how about bacon?"

Grocer—"I have just received notice that the packers in the East have advanced the price 5 cents per pound, and we must increase our prices accordingly."

H. W.—"But what has advanced the price in the East?"

Grocer—"The war in Europe."

H. W.—"But how? Is any bacon being sent away?"

Grocer—"Oh, no! But there is liable to be a call at any time."

H. W.—"Well send me a dozen lemons!"

Grocer—"Certainly, madam, with pleasure; but do you know that the price of lemons has more than doubled in the past ten days."

H. W.—"Well for the land's sake! Has another war broke out in Central America?"

Grocer—"Oh, no; theirs is but the advancing. We have to pay the war risk."

H. W.—"What risk? Is our nation at war?"

Grocer—"Oh, no; but it may be drawn in. We never can tell."

H. W.—"How about eggs?"

Grocer—"Eggs are slowly raising because of the advanced price of the grain that the chickens eat."

H. W.—"Has coffee gone up in price?"

Grocer—"Not yet; but we expect a speedy advance, for the French under the excitement of the war will use vast quantities of coffee."

H. W.—"But how are they going to get it? There is no commerce between Brazil and Mexico and France."

Grocer—"We must be prepared for contingencies."

H. W.—"You explained that the price of sugar had advanced. Do the farmers get any more for their beets?"

Grocer—"Oh, no; their's is but the raw product. It is the manufactured article that has advanced."

H. W.—"But Why? There is no trouble in Cuba, or Porto Rico or Hawaii or the Philippines, or in our own country, is there?"

Grocer—"Oh; no; but the great crop of Austria, German, and Russia will not come this year."

H. W.—"How do you know? The women and non-combatants will harvest the crops there, and this war can not last very long. After what you are doing what you are now, with what grace can you go to congress and ask for more protection?"

Grocer—"The law of demand and supply fixes the price."

H. W.—"So it does when the masked robber asks you to hold up your hands. What is the price of carrots?"

Grocer—"The tendency is upward. The price of flower has so increased that more carrots than usual are being consumed this year."

H. W.—"How about Cache Valley cheese?"

Grocer—"It has increased in price. The English are great cheese eaters and the warships in the North Sea are liable to shut out the usual supply from the Netherlands."

H. W.—"Well, I guess we will have to fall back on pork and beans."

Grocer—"I am sorry to say that pork has already advanced 20 per cent, and the ground coffee manufacturers are using double the amount of beans this year."

The housewife went home, called up her husband on the phone and told him to sell the house and furniture for whatever he could get.

"But my dear," he replied, "where will we go?"

"We will go to France and Germany or Belgium," she answered back; "we can never make enough to live here."—Goodwin's Weekly.

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"I know of no other city on the continent whose population increases from 5,000 to 50,000 in a week. There is not, to my knowledge, another locality offering just what Pendleton does. Round-up week its hotels are filled, homes are converted into lodging houses, tents dot the lawns, the tepees of the Indians loom up adjoining the city, long trains of dining and sleeping cars are parked, campers-out find pretty nooks on the river banks, the streets are thronged and revelry prevails.

"It is good natured revelry. The general salutation is 'Let 'er Buck' and this means that the visitor is welcome and that if he doesn't enjoy himself it is no fault of the home-folk. The town is his.

"The Round-Up itself is wonderfully attractive. When the members of the cowboy band with their favorite horses appear they are the vanguard for a procession without counterpart. Cowboys, cowgirls, pioneers, Indian braves, squaws and papposes, plunging horses, shot-ridden stage coaches are in line, moving to enlivening strains to the central arena. There are hundreds of performers, and all have some act of merit.

"Feats of skill and daring, riding wild horses, roping long horns, hog-tieing, bull-dodging, relay races by men and women are staged in swift succession. It is a moving picture of surpassing interest. Nature made the film upon which is seen the thrilling performance of man and beast. The stage is a natural stadium, with surroundings which lend color to the acting. Deeds requiring unusual effort follow in swift succession, and generous and well-deserved applause is bestowed.

"The fame of the Round-Up is world wide. At our general city ticket office in Portland reservations are now being made for the special trains

which will be operated during the festivities. Our representatives everywhere report many inquiries. In addition to special trains, extra equipment will be added to all regular trains to Pendleton.

"I am advised by the management that the attraction for the 1914 Round-Up are greater than ever. A record-breaking attendance is promised on September 24, 25 and 26. It is gratifying to know that the people of Pendleton have made provisions to care for more people, and I am confident they will keep up their reputation for hospitality of the genuine Western kind. The O. W. R. & N. will aid in every way possible in making the Round-Up a continued success."

Foolish Trading.

As producers and builders, the American people excel all previous civilization and we are at present day marvel in business efficiency, but in dealing with foreign countries we are sorry lot of traders. Ever since Wm. Penn traded the Indians a handful of trinkets for what is now the state of Pennsylvania, the American people have been selling their birthright to foreigners for a mess of pottage, so to speak.

We export over \$50,000,000 of cattle and their products per annum, which feeds the nation of Europe, and our American heiressees spend a similar sum in buying and maintaining counts dukes and titled perages. These foreign noblemen are, as a rule, absolutely worthless—in fact become a perpetual liberty—for it costs more money to operate and keep them in repair than it does to run our cotton mills. European royalty puts the black sheep of its families on the block and our rich American girls buy them and we virtually exchange railroads, wheat fields and millions of dollars' worth of products of farm, mine and factory for tilted paupers who could not be resold for any sum. It does not require foreign treaties, a fleet of war vessels or tariff revision to stop this enormous loss. It needs only common sense in the homes of the rich.

We export \$18,000,000 of lumber and timber, and American tourists spend a similar amount in motoring over Europe and sight seeing in foreign lands although the most enchanting scenes of the world are on the American continent.

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The corn crop in the Southwest seems to have been caught coming and going, suffering from flood and from draught.

The temperance forces oppose the increased tax on liquor. For once the temperance and liquor forces may work together.

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