

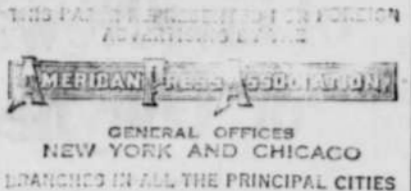
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THE PRICE OF BEEF

How to keep the price of beef, as well as other meats, within the reach of the common people is fast becoming one of the acute questions of the day. Already it is beyond the reach of the man of small means who has a family to support, except at rare intervals, and still the price is climbing. Those in a position to know predict that before the end is reached steak will retail at \$1 per pound. This of course will place it beyond the reach of the average family. Various remedies for this condition of affairs are being proposed by our economic experts, but no one has yet seemed to hit the right spot. It was fondly hoped by many, including some of our eminent statesmen, that placing beef on the free list would cause the bottom to drop out of the price, but it has been discovered that our benevolent beef trust controls the foreign output of beef, as well as the domestic, and our last condition is worse than our first, as the lack of tariff duty will permit the importation of cheap cattle by the beef trust in competition with the home product, while still allowing the trust to control the price of beef on the block. Thus are the efforts of our statesmen to relieve the situation brought to naught, and apparently no solution is in sight. We say apparently, because the simple and obvious answer to the problem will never occur to the powers that be. There is an old and trite saying that the Lord helps those who help themselves, which is applicable to the present case. If the people, through their government, would go into the cattle business on a scale sufficient to supply the needs of all and sell it at cost of production the beef trust would be left holding the sack, while the people would be able to secure meat at a price within the reach of the humblest wage-earner. But of course this will not be done. We would rather pay three or four prices for our meat, or go without entirely than gain our ends in any such revolutionary manner.

This case is, in some respects, analogous to that pertaining to our spiritual salvation. Christ in the beginning laid down a plain and simple way by which people could be saved, and said that anyone who tried any

other way was a thief and a robber. And yet, owing to the perversity of human nature, people have been striving from that day to this to discover some other method of being saved. And likewise, the way to be saved from the exactions of the beef trust is so plain that he who runs may read, any yet every impossible way under heaven will be tried rather than accept such a simple and natural solution.

The result of the elections held in various states Tuesday may well be cause for congratulation to those who believe in good government, regardless of what particular party an individual may believe in. The drift in sentiment away from the old corrupt, boss-ridden style of politics is shown unmistakably and will be a severe blow to those who have been hoping that the present movement toward a better and purer government was but temporary and that the backward swing of the pendulum was about due. Tammany Hall, probably the most corrupt and thorough-organized gang of political freebooters the country has ever known, was crushingly defeated and a clean man elected as mayor of New York city. The election was also an endorsement by the voters of President Wilson's policies and will strengthen his hands in his fight for remedial legislation.

The currency bill is having hard sledding in the senate finance committee and it is probable that by the time it emerges from that financial incubator it will be so changed that its own mother wouldn't know it without an introduction. It is difficult to tell just what form it will eventually assume, but the tendency appears to be toward a more complete control of the banks by the government than was provided for in the original bill. This feature will commend itself to all those whose selfish interests do not conflict with a policy, for despite the fact that certain patriots (?), in order to discourage this idea, have been depicting Uncle Sam in cartoons as a corrupt and bloated politician, the old gentleman is more worthy of confidence than the harpies who have been in control of the nation's finances for many weary years.

The fact that there is not enough barley raised in this vicinity to supply the local demand is an indictment of the farming methods of our agriculturists. With climate and soil peculiarly adapted to the raising of cereals it is little less than criminal that this important agricultural product is not raised in sufficient quantity to at least meet local requirements. It cannot be contended that the land is more valuable for some other crop, for with alfalfa selling at \$4.50 and \$5.00 per ton, barley would undoubtedly prove a more profitable product.

Huerta still continues to sit on the lid down in Mexico, but the signs of an eruption are daily becoming more portentous and an explosion may occur at any moment.

TAKING THE WIND OUT OF WALL STREET.

Under the above caption, the Western Magazine for September says:

There are few finer examples of team work on the part of president and cabinet officers than the one furnished in July by President Wilson and Secretary McAdoo. One of the ailments of the past generation has been the inability of Wall street to corner capital at critical moments in a manner to squeeze dry the industries of the country, create great or incipient panics, and lick the politicians all at the cast of a single stone.

Such a coupe as this had been planned for a certain fine morning in July of the present year. To proceed logically and with deadly effect it was arranged for Joseph T. Talbert, vice president of the National City Bank of New York, to throw the initial bomb into the commercial situation in the shape of an Associated Press interview, which was promptly printed, of course, in every daily newspaper of the civilized world—because its purpose was fully apparent.

In this interview, Mr. Talbert's statements, divested of their diplomatic verbiage, were a notification to all banks to cease extending credits and begin to force collections. This interview bore date of May 25th. No excuse for it existed and no excuse was given. But the banks of the country responded, however unwillingly, purely in self defense.

The crisis was planned for a certain week in July. As an illustration of how the plan was to work, on a certain day a New York bank had \$20,000,000 of cash in excess of its required reserve. But it suddenly refused to make loans; no security, however guilt-edged, even from its most valued patrons, could coax a dollar from this bank. It simply wasn't loaning money. And all the other big banks on the same day adopted the same policy.

It was the beginning of a well-planned Wall Street panic. Within a week we would have been in its deadly clutch. The season for the movement of crops had arrived, and suddenly the Money Trust had cut off credit. Business paralysis was inevitable, and such was the cold-blooded intent.

And then, upon that same evening Secretary McAdoo gave to the Associated Press an official statement wherein he offered to loan \$100,000,000 of government money to the small banks of the United States for the purpose of moving crops.

Wall Street gave one single, wild-eyed gasp—and then what happened? The very bank in New York which, on the day previous, had refused to loan a single dollar of its millions of cash deposits, loaned six million dollars before noon! And all the other banks acted with similar intelligence.

What did it all mean? It meant simply that, for the first time in 50 years, Wall Street had found a competitor, an institution which had the money to loan and stood ready to loan it—in other words, the United States government. With a simple "twist of the wrist" it had deprived Wall Street of the power to create a panic. Within an hour's notice it had entered the field as a competitive money lender, and it had more money to loan, on better terms, than Wall Street. Immediately Wall street's money was valueless, except to be put back into circulation, and that is precisely what happened. No finer act of practical statesmanship has been performed by this or any other government within a quarter century. Neither has the effect been lost upon Wall Street.

Sage Brush Prize Winners.

From sagebrush to sweepstakes prize winners, is the happy experience of Christmas Valley homesteaders, who exhibited an assortment of grains, grasses and

vegetables at the Lake county fair held in Lakeview recently.

Seven first and one second prize were the trophies brought back from the show by Judge F. A. Remington, who had charge of the exhibits. F. A. Watkins of Lake won four firsts on white oats, peck of rye, red potatoes and white potatoes. Henry H. Hoch won first and second prizes on best grain exhibit north of Summer Lake Hill, and first prize for best sheaf of rye. The wheat, summer barley and other grains displayed received favorable mention, with the exception of speltz, which won first prize.

These exhibits were grown on land that had been in sagebrush for ages and until the present owners took it up as homesteads, was not considered valuable except for winter pasturing of livestock.

M. E. Church Notes.

Sunday, November 9.

10:30 a. m.—Sunday school.
11:30 a. m.—Morning worship;
Subject, "Seeing the Signs."
Text, Matthew 16:1.

7:15—Epworth League; Miss Georgia Dennis leader.

8:00 p. m.—Evening service;
Subject, "Getting Out of the Shadow." Text, Hebrew 1:1.
Thursday at 8:00 p. m. Prayer meeting.

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