

INQUIRY INTO FOOD PRICES

President Asks Department of Justice to Act.

TO LOCATE CONSPIRACY

Those Responsible For Sudden Rise in Cost Of Living Will Be Prosecuted—Big Cities Aroused.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson directed the Department of Justice immediately to institute a searching investigation into the causes of the sudden rise in prices of foodstuffs.

Attorney-General McReynolds, a few hours later, set in motion the machinery for the probe. He first asked Secretary of Commerce Redfield for co-operation, and the experts of that department will be put at the service of the Department of Justice.

The determined way in which the President took hold of the food situation upon his return from the South shows that the whole force of the Administration will be thrown into the investigation for the purpose of punishing the "food gougers."

Will Start in Baltimore.

The inquiry will first be prosecuted in Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Detroit, Kansas City, Portland, Seattle, Omaha, Louisville, Galveston, St. Paul, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Dallas, Atlanta, Norfolk and New Orleans.

The following letter was sent to United States District Attorneys in those cities by Attorney-General McReynolds:

"The department, by its special agents in various parts of the country, has instituted an investigation into the marked increases in the price of foodstuffs since the outbreak of the European war, with a view of ascertaining whether the increases are due to any combination of combinations in restraint of trade or other unlawful actions. Please co-operate by communicating to the department any information which you obtain on the subject, together with your opinion in respect of the appropriate action to be taken."

May Ask For Legislation.

If Attorney-General McReynolds determines that there is no law under which the "food gougers" can be punished, the President will ask legislation to be passed in this respect.

The President's Letter.

President Wilson's letter to Attorney-General McReynolds was as follows:

"The rapid and unwarranted increase in the prices of foodstuffs in this country upon the pretext of the conditions existing in Europe is so serious and vital a matter that I take the liberty of calling your attention to it.

"I would be very much obliged if you would advise me whether there is, under existing law, any action which the Department of Justice could take, either by way of investigation or legal process, and what Federal legislation, if any, would in your judgment be justifiable and warrantable in the circumstances.

"I feel that this is a matter which we cannot let pass by without trying to serve the country. Certainly the country ought to be defended, if possible, against men who would take advantage of such circumstances to increase the price of food and the difficulties of living."

Department of Justice Ready.

Attorney-General McReynolds at once replied to the President as follows:

"I have your letter of August 13, in reference to the unwarranted increase in the price of foodstuffs.

"The head of our special agents has been instructed to give directions to his men throughout the country to begin investigations in order to ascertain the real facts, and I am sending the various district attorneys similar instructions. This should enable us to secure some definite information in respect of true conditions.

"May I take the liberty of suggesting that perhaps the agents of the Department of Commerce could render valuable assistance along the lines indicated.

"When we have become somewhat more familiar with the exact situation I hope to be able to make you some suggestions in respect of legal proceedings or appropriate legislation.

"The department has for some time been making investigations in various directions concerning the price of foodstuffs."

ITALIANS GUARD FRONTIERS.

Big Force Mobilized Along Swiss and Austrian Borders.

Geneva, Switzerland.—Italy has mobilized between 200,000 and 250,000 troops on the Swiss and Austrian frontiers as a precautionary measure. All the high passes over the Alps, such as the Theodul above Zermatt, are strongly held and Swiss and Italian patrols meet there and exchange their impressions of the war.



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REGISTRY OF FOREIGN VESSELS

Bill Permits Ships to Be Transferred to U. S. Flag.

Foreign Owners Will Merely Have to Get State Charter and Turn Over Their Vessels to the Corporation.

Washington, D. C.—The conference committee representing the House and Senate agreed upon a ship registry bill which is to be presented to the two houses at once and rushed through with all possible dispatch.

Under the terms of the conference bill foreign ships of any age may be transferred to the American flag from the date the measure is approved by the President. The only condition fixed is that they shall be owned either by Americans or be corporations chartered under the laws of Congress or under the laws of any State.

This means, therefore, that the corporations in question do not have to be controlled by Americans. The Cummins amendment, added in the Senate, providing that Americans must have at least a majority interest in these corporations, was stricken out. All that foreign ship owners have to do is to get a State charter and transfer their vessels to the corporation thus chartered without regard to the nationality of the shareholders.

SENATE RATIFIES 18 PEACE PACTS

Santo Domingo and Panama Treaties Held Up.

Washington, D. C.—Eighteen of the 20 peace treaties with foreign nations, providing for commissions of inquiry before resort to arms in international disputes, which ordinary resources of diplomacy fail to settle, were ratified by the Senate.

The treaties with the Dominican Republic and Panama were held up for further consideration. Treaties ratified are with Norway, The Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Persia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Chile. Postponement of action on the pacts with the Dominican Republic and Panama was determined upon after spirited debate over present relations between the United States and those republics. The United States is now engaged in attempting to settle a revolution in Santo Domingo, and it was suggested that the pending agreement might conflict with existing treaties.

SENATOR WILLIAMS IN HUFF.

Tenders Resignation From Foreign Relations Committee.

Washington, D. C.—Senator John Sharp Williams resigned as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee because, he declared, the committee had hesitated to support the Administration's policy as to mediation and because of its "equally disgusting attitude" regarding the purchase of ships to carry cotton and other goods abroad. Vice-President Marshall ruled Senator Williams' resignation out of order and an appeal was voted down. Senator Williams dramatically left the chamber alone. For years he has been an ardent advocate of peace.

KILLS FATHER, THEN HIMSELF.

Tragedy in Illinois Resulted From Quarrel Over \$12.

Clinton, Ill.—In a quarrel over \$12 in accounts, Porter Spencer, aged 48 years, a farmer, shot and killed his father, John Spencer, aged 78 years, near here. The quarrel started between Porter and his brother Thomas. When the father interfered, Porter shot him. After chasing his brother into a cornfield, Porter turned the gun on himself and blew out his brains.

DOG UPSETS BOAT; MAN DROWNS

William Mummert Loses His Life in Codorus Creek.

"SAFETY FIRST"



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ORDERS TRUST TO DISSOLVE

Court Holds Harvester Trust Is Monopoly.

Controls More Than Eighty Per Cent Of the Trade in Necessary Farm Implements, Says the Decision.

St. Paul.—The International Harvester Company was declared to be a monopoly in restraint of interstate and foreign trade and was ordered dissolved by a majority decision filed here by Judges Smith and Hook in the United States Court. Judge Walter H. Sanborn dissented.

Unless the corporation submits a plan for dissolution within 90 days the court will entertain an application for a receiver.

Judge Hook, concurring, said: "The International Harvester Company is not the result of the normal growth of the fair enterprise of an individual, a partnership or a corporation. On the contrary, it was created by combining five great competing companies which controlled more than 80 per cent of the trade in necessary farm implements, and it still maintains a substantial dominance.

"That is the controlling fact; all else is detail. It may be, as is said, that there is a growing recognition of the need of great concentrated resources for trade and commerce, even though secured by combination of independent, competing concerns. But that is not the Sherman act, and a statute must be taken by the courts as a true estimate of the preponderance of public opinion, which calls for legislative expression. It is not for them to question whether that opinion was rightly weighed or interpreted, whether it is wise or unwise or whether it has since changed.

Business Is Fair.

"It is but just, however, to say and to make it plain that in the main the business conduct of the company towards its competitors and the public has been honorable, clean and fair. Some petty dishonesties were tracked in at the start, mostly by subordinates who had been in the service of the old companies, but they were soon gotten rid of. In this connection it should also be said that specific charges of misconduct were made in the government's petition, which found no warrant whatever in the proof. They were of such a character and there was so much of them apparently without foundation that the case is exceptional in that particular.

The decision is by a divided court and the case will not be ended until the Supreme Court has said the last word.

PESTS CAUSE MILLIONS LOSS.

Hessian Fly and Army Worm Cost Farmers \$10,000,000.

Columbia, Mo.—The Hessian fly and the army worm, in the damage done to crops, outside of corn alone, cost the farmers of Missouri about \$10,000,000 this year. This is a conservative estimate made by Leonard Haseman, State Entomologist. Great damage was done to corn also, but no estimate of the monetary loss can be made because the army worm did the damage at a time when the farmers could replant.

ITALY WILL STAND NEUTRAL

Ambassador At Paris Tells Italians To Have No Fear.

Paris.—Tommaso Tittoni, Italian Ambassador to France, issued and had posted at the Italian Embassy and in the Italian quarters of Paris a signed notice stating that "Italy has proclaimed and will maintain the strictest neutrality. Therefore there is no need for Italians to be alarmed. They may continue to reside in France in full security."

CARBAJAL QUILTS MEXICAN CITY

Provisional President Departs in the Night.

HOLDS REBELS RESPONSIBLE

Successor To Huerta Leaves Manifesto Saying He Has Done His Best To Save Country From Further Bloodshed.

Mexico City.—Provisional President Carbajal left Mexico City on a special train for Vera Cruz.

The city is quiet. When the inhabitants of the federal capital awakened Thursday morning the arsenals were empty, the barracks were deserted and the provisional president of the republic, as well as the members of his cabinet, had vanished. President Carbajal left the city on a special train bound for Vera Cruz.

Provisional President Carbajal left behind him a manifesto to the nation saying that he had done his best in a provisional capacity to save the country from further bloodshed, but that his peaceful overtures had been met on the part of the Constitutionalists by uncompromising demands for an unconditional surrender. Two paths lay before him, he said, to fight or to accede to the Constitutionalists. Under such conditions the President claimed that his government could no longer exist, and he concluded:

Preparations for the reception of the triumphant Constitutional army in the capital are under way. A committee, consisting of senators and deputies of the old Madero congress has been appointed to meet General Carranza as he enters the city, business houses have been requested to decorate and arrangements have been made for women to strew the path of the incoming army with flowers.

The departure of Provisional President Carbajal and his cabinet caused no interruption in the normal life of the capital, but for the first time in its history Mexico finds itself without legislative, judicial or executive power.

When the Constitutionalists enter the city they will find it without money, arms or ammunition.

A formal peace pact between the Constitutional Army and the Federal government was signed by General Obregon, representing the Constitutionalists, and Eudoro Iturbe, governor of the Federal district. The document forms the basis under which the Constitutionalists will enter the capital.

It sets forth in general terms guarantees of the life and property of citizens of the capital and promises an absolutely peaceful occupation. The pact was drawn up at the request of the State Department at Washington, which informed the Brazilian legation here that this was absolutely necessary.

General Carranza, chief of the Constitutionalists, combatted the idea of signing any documents, saying unconditional surrender was the right of his conquering army. After an all-day debate over the question, however, a compromise was effected under which General Obregon signed for the Constitutionalists.

RUSSIANS TAKE TOWN.

Sokal, Austrian Galicia, Reported Carried By Assault.

St. Petersburg.—A Russian force has taken the town of Sokal, Austrian Galicia, by assault, inflicting heavy casualties on the Austrian garrison, according to a semi-official announcement.

The Austrian garrison consisted of two infantry battalions, a regiment of lancers and a regiment of Hussars. After dislodging them the Russian cavalry pursued the Austrians across the River Bug and blew up two bridges and a viaduct.

Several houses in Sokal, which is 45 miles northeast of Lemberg, were set on fire and burned to the ground by the Russian troops because civilians had fired from them on the attacking force.

LIVES WITH BROKEN BACK.

Gardener Struck By Auto Expected To Recover.

White Plains, N. Y.—Although his back is broken at the waist line Henry Tolapke, of Purchase, has lived for 19 days in St. Agnes' Hospital here, and he has shown so remarkable a response to treatment that it is expected he will recover. He was a gardener for Louis B. Rolston, of Purchase, and was struck by a delivery automobile on July 25. Dr. Henry Vier removed the broken bone and put the patient in a plaster cast.

GARDEN IN BACK YARD

EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS PRODUCED FROM SMALL TRACT.

Plot of Ground About 30 by 40 Feet in Size Proved Itself Worthy of Time, Effort and Small Expense Put Upon it.

Fifteen miles from the busiest district of the busy city of Chicago, there is a small kitchen garden which has produced extraordinary results. It is planted in a plot of ground about 30 by 40 feet in size, and has proved itself worthy the time, effort and small expense put upon it.

Almost all of the ordinary table vegetables and fruits can be found here, and this small piece of ground has been the means of a distinct saving in the summer bills.

Lettuce, radishes and onions were the first arrivals, and came in such quantities that the neighborhood usually shared in them. The amount of choice lettuce that can be raised in a 4 by 6-foot bed is surprising, and this one afforded a constant supply of fresh salad material all the summer season.

Onions of several varieties were raised, and those that were planted in the fall afforded an early crop before others were even out of the ground.

In July the beets and cucumbers were ready for use, and again one may put forward the argument in favor of the small garden on suburban lots, namely, that there is no comparison between the dried-up, expensive store products, and the fresh, ever-ready vegetables of your own growing.

In the early part of August the tomatoes ripen, and by raising two varieties there is a constant supply of them until the frost cuts off the ripening process, but leaves many green ones which may be pickled.

A small border of parsley, and a little patch of mint will do all the garnishing and flavoring that are necessary. Carried away by the automobile fever, the old horse was sold and a machine purchased in his place. This left the runway empty, and in order to utilize every inch of the ground it was planted to potatoes, peas and beans, all of which grew well.

Of the fruits that were grown in this little garden, the strawberries were the first to come. The bed is about 10 by 20 feet in size, and has borne continually during the season. Not a single box was purchased, and the berries were large and juicy. The total amount produced was 50 quarts. A wonderberry had proved very successful also, and this new fruit is



Some of the Results From a Small Kitchen Garden.

rightly named, in that the number of berries borne on one vine is wonderful, when the size of the vine is considered.

Raspberry and current bushes, also bore well, and so it was—one fruit after another all summer long. There are some grape vines which are as yet too young to bear, but are very promising.

The financial side of this enterprise has been very satisfactory. The surplus crop of cucumbers and tomatoes netted \$10 and the products of the strawberry bed were worth \$6.25, the currants and raspberries were worth another \$3.

Not to go into further detail, it is fair to estimate that this small garden planted at an expense of not more than \$1 for seed, has made a return of about \$30, beside affording many hours of healthful exercise to the family.

These results show how a little "pin money" could easily be made by utilizing the back yards of suburban or city homes.

True Economic System.

The truest economic system of conducting any business is the one which makes every dollar of the capital employed whether in bonds, land or stock, yield a suitable return in some shape; but bare field, unworked land will not do this and the farmer who attempts to make a profit is certainly not conducting his business on an economic principle.

Packing Poultry.

Never pack poultry as long as one drop of water or one degree of animal heat remains in their bodies. Never allow them to touch one another or anything which will retard the free circulation of the air around them.

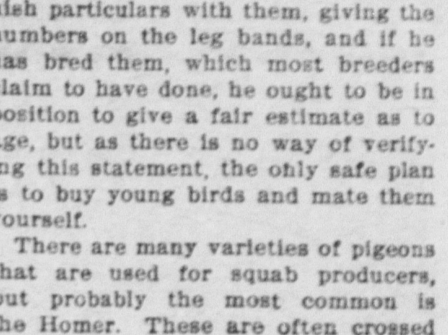
RAISING SQUABS FOR PROFIT

Fancier Should Purchase Birds From Some One With Whom He Is Personally Acquainted.

Pigeons depreciate in value with age. They are considered to be at their prime when three years old, and there are very few pairs that pay for their food after they are seven years old. Professional dealers in breeding stock have been known to buy these old pairs for from sixty to seventy-five cents, and then sell them to the unsuspecting public as guaranteed mated birds (which they certainly are) at from two or three dollars a pair. Such birds, as a rule, will breed pretty well for the first few months in their new quarters, but after that they are only a source of expense.

For this reason a man should buy birds from some one with whom he is personally acquainted, or else from some person who is willing to give a guarantee not only as to the birds being mated, but also as to age. If they are mated birds there is no reason why a salesman should not furnish particulars with them, giving the numbers on the leg bands, and if he has bred them, which most breeders claim to have done, he ought to be in position to give a fair estimate as to age, but as there is no way of verifying this statement, the only safe plan is to buy young birds and mate them yourself.

There are many varieties of pigeons that are used for squab producers, but probably the most common is the Homer. These are often crossed



White Dragon Cock.

with Runts, Dragons, Teals, Duchesses and Maltese. The Runt is a very heavy bird. The Duchess gives a feathered leg squab, but has a tendency to increase the weight.

TIME FOR DIGGING POTATOES

Crop is Important One and Farmer Should Not Be Compelled to Buy Them for Table Use.

Where potatoes are very dirty when taken from the field, some growers wash all the soil off them. Others maintain that it ruins their flavor and palatability. They are certainly far cleaner and more desirable to handle when the hose has been turned on them, and the clinging, hardened dirt washed off.

If the ground is fairly dry when they are dug, and if they are allowed to take the air and the wind for a while, they will usually be clean enough to do without washing. There is every reason for digging them during such weather conditions.

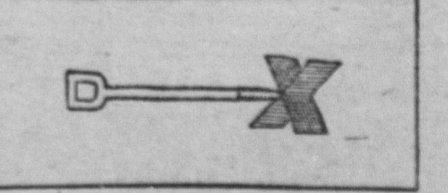
Potato digging should be made a sort of an odd job, one that can be done at any time when there is nothing more pressing to do. The potato crop should be an important one, and any farmer who is forced to buy potatoes for table use should look upon himself as temporarily disgraced.

Enough potatoes are spoiled every year by careless digging to feed a city of the second class for twelve months. Only in communities where the potato is the main and staple crop is there any real care shown in digging and handling this very important food crop.

USEFUL CHOPPER FOR ROOTS

Any Blacksmith Can Make Device by Following Suggestions Given in Illustration Herewith.

It's a slow and tedious job chopping roots in large quantities, and if they are to be fed to animals, a great deal of time is required. Your blacksmith will make a good root chopper by following the suggestions in the picture



A Good Root Chopper.

herewith. Take to him an old handle of some kind and have it inserted firmly in the chopper and fastened with screws.

The edges of the chopper should be very sharp and the blade should be strong enough not to bend under vigorous chopping.

Uniform Type in Colts. Breed the mares so as to secure, as far as possible, uniform type in the colts. This may mean the use of one stallion, or of three or four—but secure uniformity.

Success of Orchardist.

The measure of success of an orchardist depends upon his knowledge of sprays and the ability to apply them at the proper time and in the right manner.