

SPROUL PROMISES ACTION ON HOARDERS

'Will Have Something to Say on Profiteering' When He Returns Home

DRASTIC MOVE IN VIEW

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 20.—I will have something to say about food profiteering when I get home to Pennsylvania, said Governor Sproul today.

"Drastic action may be looked for when I return," he went on.

"I am now studying the situation out here with a view to introducing remedial action and I hope when I return home to be able to meet conditions and thereby materially to aid in forcing down the high cost of living."

"Why didn't Pennsylvania at the last session of the Legislature enact such laws as would make profiteers and hoarders punishable by law?" the Governor was asked.

"Why didn't Congress and State Legislatures generally pass such laws anticipating the contingencies which have arisen?" he countered.

He asserted that there was no concrete evidence of profiteering and hoarding at the time the Legislature was sitting.

"Unthrifty" One Cause, He Says

Governor Sproul holds the opinion that the people of Philadelphia and of the country at large have "fallen into unthrifty ways."

"We now eat sirloins and porterhouse steaks, where before we counted the entire beef," he said.

Governor Sproul is one of the seven state executives chosen at the conference of governors in Salt Lake City yesterday to visit Washington and confer with President Wilson to obtain closer co-operation with the federal government in providing a remedy for the serious situation brought about by high prices.

In this visit to Washington the governors will have the aid and support of Attorney General Palmer, who declared in this city that there is no law at the present time that would warrant the launching of criminal prosecutions against food profiteers.

Will Urge Speedy Action

It is likely that the governors who call upon the President will urge him to have the matter speedily settled in Congress.

Governor Sproul believes that the continuation of food boards, the publication of fair price lists and the expression of public sentiment would help in getting speedy results in the campaign to stamp out the profiteer and the hoarder of foodstuffs.

Labor Only Part of Cycle

In discussing the situation, Governor Sproul said:

"The labor question is just a part of the big cycle, and most workmen realize now that, with the advance in wages, a necessary advance in the cost of living has taken place.

"We have a large foreign population in Pennsylvania. However, we have enough of the old-fashioned American stock to mix with new citizens and teach them real Americanism. We aim to steer the newcomers right and make them part of us. Therefore, we have little trouble now with strikes, bolshevism and other matters.

"The American people, of course, will have to study. In my opinion, the dollar will never be worth as much as it was before, because the public will not be willing to work so hard for it. The country may also be at that stage where the people who work for a living insist on better living conditions."

Governor Sproul said "conditions are not as bad in Pennsylvania as in other states, though they are bad enough."

"The state Department of Agriculture, the pure food bureau and the bureau of markets are giving this matter particular attention," he added.

"The state council of defense has been organized as a committee of public welfare, and is carrying out the plans so successful during the war in fighting hoarders, profiteers and the high cost of living, by directing public sentiment against the guilty."

"The food boards are being revived with the publication of fair prices and publicity given to any discovery of hoarding and profiteering and this is resulting in practical value."

The governors who will go to Washington with Governor Sproul are:

Gardner, of Missouri; Milliken, of Maine; Burquist, of Minnesota; Rickett, of North Carolina; Stewart, of Montana; and Campbell, of Arizona.

Tons of Fowl Here Will Be Seized

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Under the rules of the court, the owners or claimants of the food have the right to file an answer within the next twenty-one days denying the charges and to demand a jury trial to determine that fact.

Stored More Than a Year

While the government looks upon such cases as of extreme importance, Department of Justice officials have greater interest in the Morris case, because the evidence shows that the calves have been in storage for more than a year, and from the method pursued Mr. Harvey declared the evidence indicated a purpose of shift shifting the cattle from storage house to storage house in various cities until the prices reached the height desired by the packers.

In the Morris case, the libel charges that the calves were in a storage warehouse in Chicago from August 10, 1918, to January 22 of this year, when they were shipped to this city, and placed in the storage house of Morris & Co., at 8 North Delaware avenue, they have been there since.

"Morris & Co., cannot very well say they kept the calves in storage awaiting a scant market," declared Mr. Harvey, "because there was a scant market supply between August 10, 1918 and now."

deners needed in the normal conduct of their business and they were hoarding them for the purpose of increasing prices.

In the libel entered against the Burton and Howard companies, charged with hoarding the chickens, a very definite charge that they conspired to hoard the food is made. The affidavit charges:

"That the two companies and divers other persons have conspired, combined and agreed together to limit the facilities for supplying and dealing in the said chickens and necessities within the meaning of this act, to restrict the supply and distribution of said necessities and to exact excessive, unreasonable and exorbitant prices, and that the storage is a part of the carrying

out and execution of the aforesaid unlawful conspiracy and agreement."

The affidavits ask that the food be seized, appropriated and sold by order of the court.

STEEL STRIKE ASSURED, UNION OFFICER SAYS

Spokesman for Workers Asserts Vote Is Virtually Unanimous

Yungtown, O., Aug. 20.—(By A. P.)—Under the presidency of John

Fitzpatrick, the American Federation of Labor's national committee on organization of the iron and steel industry met here at noon today to begin canvassing a strike vote taken among twenty-four unions which have members in the steel industry and to decide whether or not these unions will be asked to present demands and back them up by a strike.

W. Z. Foster, secretary-treasurer of the committee and spokesman for the

unions, without giving figures, said the vote was virtually unanimous for a strike in all districts. In the Pittsburgh district he said he had seen only one adverse vote, cast at Donora. The Cleveland vote was virtually unanimous he said and was unanimous in the Youngstown district.

A decision on asking the twenty-four unions to strike will likely be reached tonight, Foster asserted.

HIBERNIANS RAP GOMPERS

Say He Ignored Justice to Ireland in Supporting League

Atlantic City, Aug. 20.—Sentiment against Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, for his alleged "trickery" in urging indeterminate support of the league of nations plan, regardless upon what is claimed to be "obvious injustice" to

the Irish cause, is strong among more than a thousand delegates to the annual convention here of the Pennsylvania Grand Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

The Gompers question did not reach the floor today, and efforts may be made to exclude it altogether by the administration leaders, for fear of creating a breach between the Hibernians and the American Labor Federation, which is believed to be overwhelmingly favorable to Irish freedom.

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