

PROFITEERING IS BARED BY REPORT

Treasury Department Tells How the American Public Has Been Made to Pay.

BIG INCREASES OVER 1916

Producers of Foodstuffs Made the Most Enormous Profits, and Nearly Every Other Branch of Industry Piled Up Huge Riches.

Washington, Aug. 17.—The treasury department's report on profiteering, just completed in response to a senate resolution and covering 31,500 corporations, reveals the fact that astonishing profits have been made in almost every branch of industry in America in 1916 and 1917. The names of the concerns are not made public. The treasury department takes the position that it would be a violation of existing law to make public the names of corporations and their earnings. The senate resolution is not sufficient to suspend the law; it would require a joint resolution, the treasury department holds.

The most extraordinary profiteering revealed by the report was in foodstuffs. Producers of nearly all the common necessities of life were shown to have made enormously increased profits in 1917 over 1916, although their earnings in 1916 were in numerous cases far above the 100 per cent mark. Meat packers' profits were shown to have increased substantially. One large packer made \$19,000,000 more in 1917 than in 1916.

In the iron and steel industry sensational profits were disclosed. In coal and oil profits mounted to unparalleled figures. Public utilities of virtually every character also came in for a liberal share of the increased prosperity.

Large Profits of Dairies.
Among the dairy concerns large increases of profits were shown. One company with \$600,000 capital made \$168,000 in 1917, against \$25,000 the year before. The small dairymen made the largest percentages of increased profits. One little concern with a capital of \$2,400 made \$11,659, as compared with \$4,000 for 1916.

Fruit and vegetable growing industries' profits increased considerably over those for 1916, although they were fairly large for that year. One concern's profits were 240 per cent more for 1917 than for 1916. Concerns with small capital showed the largest increases.

Wheat, corn and barley growing was not so profitable, according to the returns. One concern with \$425,000 capital lost money.

Stock breeding showed substantially increased profit in nearly all the concerns listed. The industry also showed large profits for the previous year. One concern's profits were 255 per cent more in 1917 than in 1916.

A large number of industries listed as "miscellaneous agricultural industries" showed some strikingly large profits, beginning in 1916 and increasing rapidly in 1917.

Food Men Gain Riches.

Of 216 concerns listed under the caption "Bread and other baking products," profiteering of an amazing character was shown. For example, one company capitalized at \$40,000 increased its profits from \$50,000 in 1916 to \$107,000 in 1917. Few of them showed increases of less than 20 per cent on their capital stock.

In the canning industry one company which earned \$77 per cent in 1916 earned 1,647 per cent in 1917. Another, capitalized at \$63,000, made \$247,000 in 1917, against \$66,000 in 1916. A \$50,000 concern which made \$25,000 in 1916 made \$142,000 in 1917.

The manufacture of syrups, molasses and glucose netted much increased profit. One company with \$350,000 capital earned \$933,000 in 1917 against \$176,000 in 1916. Ice cream was an especially big money maker.

Of more than 500 flour, feed and grist mills listed only a few failed to show largely increased profits. One \$2,500,000 concern made \$752,000 in 1916 and \$1,200,000 in 1917.

There was a general upward rise in most packing companies' profits. The largest concern listed had a capital of \$100,000,000, upon which it earned \$40,000,000 in 1917, against \$30,000,000 in 1916.

Startling Profits in Leather.

Leather manufacturers, including the dealers in hides, and makers of boots and shoes and trunks and valises, made profits in 1916 and 1917 that are startling. One shoe manufacturing concern, with \$1,000,000 capital, made \$13 per cent in 1916, but no excess in 1917.

Scores of boot and shoe manufacturing concerns, whose capital was from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, made all the way from 20 to more than 1,000 per cent in 1916.

Our Silver Goes to India.

The viceroy of India, Lord Chelmsford, returns thanks to the American government for its contribution to the silver supply. There is plenty more that can be spared. Only \$77,000,000 of the cart-wheel standard silver dollars are in circulation, while about \$40,000,000 are stored in treasury vaults and represented in circulation by silver certificates—in effect, warehouse receipts. The borrowing from the treasury by our government of a few hundred millions of the discs to be

The profits of the brewers ranged from 25 to 175 per cent in 1916, and their excess profits in 1917 were from 5 to 50 per cent, most of the large breweries making an average profit of 42 to 50 per cent in 1916, and an excess profit of 10 per cent in 1917.

The distillers of whiskies and spirits made profits in 1916 that ranged from 9 to 823 per cent, while their excess profits last year were from 12 to 400 per cent.

Coal Men Pile Up Wealth.
The Pennsylvania and West Virginia soft coal mining companies made enormous excess profits in 1917, according to the report. The large companies all made profits in 1916 ranging from 25 to 150 per cent.

In 1917 all of the large bituminous operators, the report shows, made unusual profits. One mine made 1,626 per cent on its capital in 1916 and 4,337 per cent in 1917. Another made 1,872 per cent in 1916 and 5,983 per cent in 1917.

Profits of the midcontinent bituminous operators were smaller, averaging 50 per cent.

The big oil producing companies of Illinois, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia made from 28 to 396 per cent in 1916 and enormous excess profits in 1917. The Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas oil companies showed similar profits for both years.

All of the garment manufacturers made gigantic profits in 1916, those for the larger companies ranging from 25 to 75 per cent that year. They showed excess profits in 1917 of from 5 to 55 per cent.

Small dealers in flour and grain, with capital stock of from \$1,000 to \$5,000, made excess profits that ranged as high as 519 per cent.

The report also shows that the small dealers in furniture and other household goods made enormous profits last year, with excess profits as high as 350 per cent.

Retail dealers in tobacco made enormous profits off the smokers of the country, the highest being 3,176 per cent, and the average approximately 80 per cent in 1916. These profits were doubled during 1917.

Auto Builders Wax Fat.

Most of the automobile companies hit high marks in earnings in 1916, but they went still higher in 1917. The largest listed, however, did not show any extraordinary increase in profits over those of 1916. One company with \$31,000,000 capital in 1916 earned \$17,000,000, then boosted its capital stock to \$96,000,000 and then earned \$23,000,000. A \$19,000,000 concern which earned \$4,908,000 in 1916 made \$5,258,000 in 1917. A \$16,000,000 company made \$4,713,000 in 1917, against \$4,100,000 in 1916.

A tin plate mill with \$48,000,000 capital made \$54,000,000 net profit in 1917, against \$19,000,000 in 1916, or an increase of 72 per cent on its capital stock.

Transportation, public utilities, and light and power companies, with very few exceptions, fared exceedingly well during 1916 and 1917. Their profits in 1916 generally ranged from 6 to 80 per cent on their capital stock, while they nearly all made excess profits in 1917 of from 3 to 35 per cent. Profits of the large public utilities companies in 1916 and 1917 ranged from 11 to 25 per cent.

Steam and electric railroads in 1916 made from 17 to 207 per cent profits, while in 1917 they made profits in excess of 1916 that ranged between 15 and 20 per cent, according to the report.

Marine, fire, and life insurance concerns enjoyed unusually large increases in profits. One company earned 493 per cent more on its capital stock in 1917 than in 1916. Another capitalized at \$700,000 increased its income from \$324,000 in 1916 to \$3,778,000 in 1917.

How Dry Goods Men Fared.
A list of 2,092 clothing and dry goods merchants, including department stores, showed profits for 1917 in excess of those over 1916, as high as 191.43 per cent on the capital stock. The concerns making the enormous profits, however, were the smaller firms.

Retail grocers and provision brokers made their enormous "war profits" in 1916, the report shows. The grocers made only a small profit in 1917 in excess of their 1916 profits. Of the 1,633 concerns listed in the report, however, only a dozen show profits of less than 20 per cent on their capital stock in 1916, the year before the United States entered the war, and the profits of some concerns that year were as high as 1,813 per cent. Most of the grocers, both large and small concerns, the report shows, made average profits in 1916 of from 50 to 200 per cent.

Sentimental Gush.

"It's positively silly, of course, but I guess most of us have been that way at some time in our lives."
"What are you talking about?"
"I just now overheard a young chap telling 'earth's fairest creature' why it was that the sugar shortage wasn't bothering him in the least."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Rather Slow.

"I don't suppose you would consider houseboating a form of sport?"
"I should say not!" replied the motorist. "Why, the last time I was on board a houseboat it took us a week to cover a distance I can travel in my car in about two hours of moderately fast driving."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

His Hope.

"Here's hopin'," said Jones.
"What?" said Smith.
"That this anti-tipping movement will include the guy who has been in the habit of rocking the boat."

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General Liggett's corps probably is regarded as the mobile reserve of the First Army, and as such is being employed on the French front. Should aggressive operations be undertaken on the American front, however, this corps probably would be used there, supplemented by French and possibly British mobile reserves sent by General Foch. In that case, while General Foch would map out the objectives of the action in a broad way, General Pershing would command the joint forces.

This recalls the fact that the American sectors include what always has been considered the logical road to Berlin for French advances. It was across lines now held by Americans that the French struck in 1914 before the plunge of the German Army through Belgium localized the war in Northern France.

While the enemy is still in Northern France, it may be that no major attack can be attempted through these gateways. The campaigns in Picardy

converted into bullion and loaned to our silver-using allies is good finance. —New York Herald.

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OUR FIRST FIELD ARMY

Their Sectors Are on the Road to Berlin

HOLD LINE TO SWISS BORDER

And Military Experts Are of Opinion That Over The American Line The Real Thrust At Germany Will Be Driven Home.

Washington.—Secretary Baker was formally advised by General Pershing that the First American Field Army had been created, General Pershing retaining command of the army as well as of the entire American Expeditionary Force for the present. The dispatch added nothing to details of the army organization already made known from Paris, however, Mr. Baker said.

The announcement is regarded as having deep significance at the War Department, mainly because it places the American Army in France on the same footing as the French or British forces there.

Formation of the Army is taken care to mean that the Americanization of a definite portion of the front has been captured. Supply lines, railway bases, storage facilities, debarkation ports and the like, created and operated by Americans, stand behind the first army. The only statement of the location of this American front given is that it is "South of the Marne." Presumably this means a part at least of the long line from St. Mihiel to the Swiss border where American troops have been put in at intervals during the last few months.

Five Full Corps.
The extent of that front has not been disclosed, nor has the definite strength of the Army been given. The advance indicate that it comprises, however, five full corps, which means approximately 1,250,000 men.

The effect of the taking over of the line is to make a definite beginning at apportioning the long front. The British hold the left flank, aided by the Belgians, from the North Sea to the juncture of the Fourth Army and the French First Army in Picardy, where an offensive is being conducted at present.

In that position the British are not only holding their share of the line, but stand between the enemy and the channel ports, which would be his only road to England while the British fleet exists.

The French armies presumably are being concentrated wholly between the Picardy juncture, with the British and the American left beyond Verdun. They block the roads to Paris.

To Swiss Border.
To the Americans has fallen the remainder of the front to the Swiss border when the other armies shall have been formed.

The First Army undoubtedly now holds the bulk of that line, with such French help as is necessary. The whole line probably is under General Pershing's direct command, even the French corps or divisions that are necessary until additional American troops arrive. The American commander will hereafter direct all operations on his front. He has as much freedom of action on his own lines as has Sir Douglas Haig on the British front or General Petain on the French, for he stands on an equality with them. All three are under Marshal Foch for the major campaigns.

As direct commander of the army in the field General Pershing will be well situated to weigh the qualities of the men he has assigned temporarily as corps commanders. From those five officers he probably will select the commander of the First Army, and opinion here leans toward Major General Hunter Liggett, now commanding the First Corps on the Vesle front, as his choice. It is expected, also, that General Pershing will soon name his permanent corps commanders, the appointment carrying with it the rank of lieutenant general.

The Mobile Reserve.
General Liggett's corps probably is regarded as the mobile reserve of the First Army, and as such is being employed on the French front. Should aggressive operations be undertaken on the American front, however, this corps probably would be used there, supplemented by French and possibly British mobile reserves sent by General Foch. In that case, while General Foch would map out the objectives of the action in a broad way, General Pershing would command the joint forces.

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and at the Marne, however, are aimed at forcing him back until the opportunity comes to drive back at him, and it is regarded by officers here that it will be over the American lines that the real thrust at Germany will be driven home.

AMERICANS HELD FIRM

German Counter-Attacks At Bray Repulsed With Loss.

American Army on the British Front in Picardy.—American troops, fighting side by side with the Canadians on the left wing of the Allied attacking front in Picardy, are clinging fast to the outskirts of Bray, one of the German strong points on the north bank of the Somme. The Germans have counter-attacked repeatedly and viciously but their fury was of no avail. The vain counter-thrusts cost the enemy heavy losses and failed to budge our lines. Ten guns, including seven 155-millimetre pieces and three 150 millimetre-calibres, were captured by our men, in addition to a neat bag of prisoners. Great quantities of ammunition also have fallen into our hands.

GOVERNMENT TO SELL MILEAGE

Good On Any Road And For Any Number Of People.

Washington.—Passenger mileage books, interchangeable and good on any railroad, will be placed on sale. They will be accepted in payment of passenger fares on trains, in exchange for tickets and for extra baggage charges. Two books are being prepared—one with 1,000 coupons, each coupon worth three cents, or one mile of travel, to be sold for \$30 with the addition of \$2.40 war tax collected when the book is bought, and another with 500 coupons, selling for \$15 with \$1.20 additional war tax.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

American Proposal Formally Accepted By Germany.

Washington.—Formal acceptance by Germany of the American proposal for a conference on treatment and exchange of prisoners at Berne, Switzerland, "the middle of September," was transmitted to the State Department through the Spanish Foreign Office. The German Government already had accepted the proposal in principle and though no time had been fixed, the United States appointed delegates, headed by Minister Garrett at the Hague, to attend the conference. Questions relating to interned civilians also will be discussed.

AUSTRIANS TO TRY AGAIN.

Indications Of Another Offensive On Italian Front.

Geneva, Switzerland.—The Austrians are reported moving an immense amount of material and great numbers of troops in the direction of Italy and are expected shortly to attempt another offensive on the Italian front. Austrian railway trains running toward the Tyrol are reported crowded with soldiers, no civilian passengers being allowed. The Austro-Swiss frontier has been closed since Saturday.

LESS WOOL FOR RED CROSS.

Not a Complete Stoppage Of Knitting, However.

New York.—The action of the War Industries Board in halting the production of yarn for knitting in order to conserve wool for army uniforms "may result in the Red Cross getting less wool than it needs, but does not mean a complete stoppage of knitting in American Red Cross work rooms," according to an announcement by officials of the Atlantic division.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Farmers' party in New York state threatens to put a ticket of its own into the political field.

Six per cent. of the line of a Swiss railroad is over bridges and 13.5 per cent. through tunnels.

Great Britain is raising about 900,000 acres of potatoes this year, about 25 per cent. more than last year.

To facilitate writing in the dark an inventor has patented an electric flashlight to be attached to a lead pencil.

New York has abolished auction sales of worn-out police horses. The S. P. C. A. will take over all discarded animals.

What is said to be the most expensive chair in the world belongs to the Pope. It is of solid silver and is said to have cost \$90,000.

Nine thousand girls of all ages in the State of Washington pledged themselves to spend the summer in planting and handling crops.

The Springfield (Mass.) Chamber of Commerce is sponsor for a plan to bring over 100 French girls to study American business methods at the Springfield High School of Commerce.

The gas and electric lighting company of Baltimore is training women for the work of reading meters and installing heating and lighting appliances.

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MUST DISCOURAGE BUYING LUXURIES

Many of So-Called Necessities Should Also Be Used Sparingly as Possible.

WOULD EFFECT BIG SAVING

Money Could Be Turned Into Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps, and Labor Into Essential Industries.

By MORTIMER L. SCHIFF.

So much has been said and written in recent months on the subject of thrift, that it must by this time be the strictest economy is practiced by the people of this country, the enormous sums and the mass of goods which the war requires cannot be forthcoming. The most important contribution which the civilian population can make towards the winning of the war is to order its daily life so as to prevent waste and thus make available for military purposes the goods and labor which would otherwise be dissipated in production for unnecessary purposes. Not only must the spending of money for luxuries be discouraged, but even so-called necessities must be used as sparingly as possible. It is only in that way that the growing need of our army and navy can be met.

The amount which the individual can thus contribute may seem small, but if all pursue such a course conscientiously, the resultant saving is enormous. Surely it is due to our brave boys at the front that our military operations be not hampered by a lack of supplies due to production at home being diverted into non-essential channels. It must always be borne in mind and cannot be stated too often, that doing without something results in a double advantage to the government. The money thus saved is made available for the purchase of Liberty bonds and War Savings stamps and in addition a corresponding amount of labor and goods is released for war purposes.

To illustrate by a concrete example, if a man does not buy a new overcoat, but makes his old one do for another season, he not only can place at the disposal of the government the money which he would have used for that purpose, but the manufacturer can use that cloth and the labor for making the overcoat in manufacturing a military or naval overcoat for one of our soldiers or sailors.

Thrift Will Help Win War.

Fuel and food conservation work in a similar way and everything which we as individuals do without means just so much more for our allies or for ourselves for war purposes. The gospel of thrift cannot be preached too often or too strongly, not only for its direct bearing on the war, but also for its effect on the future of this country. We have been so blessed with natural resources and facilities for production, that we have been an extravagant people, and it is certain to be of incalculable advantage if we learn the value of saving. We have been extravagant not only in the expenditure of money, but also in what is even more important, in the use of our raw material and of our land. Intensive farming and full use of buying products are examples of this kind of thrift, which if intelligently practiced will tremendously increase our production.

Saving to be effective must be systematic and not haphazard in character. The greatest advantage of War Savings associations or the purchase of Liberty bonds on the installment plan is that they require the setting aside of a definite sum each week or each month and the making of the domestic budget accordingly. And the remainder of the money thus set aside is saved and invested in the premier security of the world, in the obligation of the United States of America.

Frugality Great Asset.

The problems of peace are going to be no less serious than those of war, but we face them with confidence, if, as a result of the habits we have acquired during war time, we shall have become a thrifty and economical people and a nation of savers. "Waste not, want not" is a true old saying, but its application was never more important than now. France's greatest asset has been the thrift and frugality of her people and we can do no better than to emulate her in this, as in so many other things. To do so each must do his or her share and by so doing divert production from non-essentials into essentials and make available the labor and goods needed for military purposes. In the same way, it is only by thrift and economy that we can speed up our production and make participation in the war more and more effective.

Try It Out, Ma.

"Ma," said five-year-old Willie to the cleanliness administrator of the household, "I believe I could be a better boy if you wouldn't wash me so much."

"What has washing to do with your behavior?"
"Well, ma, you know that after you wash your hair, you say you can't do a thing with it."

How About Gossips?

The human voice is produced by 44 different muscles.

Neither Had It Right.

Mary (to Jeweler)—Would you please settle an argument for me? This is my engagement ring. My young man says it's pronounced "turkwans," and I said it was "turkwoys." What do you say, sir?

Jeweler—I'm afraid you're both wrong. The correct pronunciation is "glass!"—London Tit-Bits.

Not by Chance.

A man's work does not fall upon him by chance, but it is given him to do. —George Macdonald.



Help That Weak Back!

IN THESE trying times the utmost effort of every man and every woman is necessary. But the man or woman who is handicapped with weak kidneys finds a good day's work impossible, and any work a burden. Lame, achy back; daily headaches, dizzy spells, urinary irregularities and that "all-worn-out" feeling are constant sources of distress and should have prompt attention.

Don't delay! Neglected kidney weakness too often leads to gravel, dropsy or Bright's disease. Begin using Doan's Kidney Pills today. They have brought thousands of kidney sufferers back to health. They should help you.

Personal Reports of Real Cases

A VIRGINIA CASE.
J. F. Thomas, 27 Roxbury St., Clifton Forge, Va., says: "Uric acid had poisoned my blood and I had lost the use of my limbs. I was emaciated, my limbs were stiff and I endured awful suffering from pains in my back. I was in bed for months and it seemed as if nothing would help me. Finally I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills and in a few days a great change took place. Before long I was able to walk around and in a little over a month I was well and happy again. My kidneys are now normal and I gained about thirty pounds."

A MARYLAND CASE.
Mrs. L. T. Somers, Extension Second St., Pocomoke City, Md., says: "Last March I was in a bad way with a run down condition of my kidneys. I had severe pains in the small of my back whenever I would bend and it was hard to straighten. The kidney secretions were scanty and distressing in passage and I felt tired and worn out and miserable. Through a friend, I learned of Doan's Kidney Pills and they did me more good than any other medicine I had ever taken. I am now in fine health."

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

60c a Box at All Stores. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N.Y. Mfg. Chem.

What One Is.

"Pa, oh, Pa," came the still small voice. "What is a back number?"
"It's one of the kind they hang on automobiles and athletes," answered pa, who would have whipped his little boy in a minute for not sticking to the truth.

Its Use.

"What do you do with the hour of daylight you save now?"
"Oh, I use it up in light reading."

No Use.

"Are you conserv