

MILLION DOLLAR JOY-RIDE. Lasker and Guests Junket at Expense of Tax Payers Under Pretense of Giving the Leviathan a Trial Trip.

Special Correspondence.
Washington, June 25.—The Leviathan "Million Dollar Joy-Ride" took place as scheduled. According to newspaper reports, ex-Chairman Lasker, in charge of the junket, remained in hiding until the three-mile limit was passed for fear of an injunction. Of the 600 invited guests only 318, according to press reports, went along. Of these a large number were newspaper reporters, special writers, cartoonists and film men. Only a partial list of the guests has been published, but in that list are a number of prominent advertisers.
This "joy-ride" has been camouflaged under the name of a "trial trip." The vessel had a trial trip from Newport News to Boston, and this second trial trip was deemed by many to be unnecessary and only delayed putting the great liner into commission at the most profitable season of the year. It seems now that only a Congressional investigation can reveal whether or not this junketing trip was necessary or desirable; the amount it cost, and whether or not a Republican official is justified in using the appropriations for his bureau to entertain personal friends upon government vessels.

"Lasker's "Million Dollar Joy-Ride" has been criticized by Chairman Hull of the Democratic National Committee and by the leading newspapers of both parties, and to these criticisms is attributed the reduction in the number of guests to about 50 per cent of those invited. Mr. Lasker replied to these criticisms, alleging that the additional expense for the entertainment of his guests would be only \$13,000. No better analysis of Mr. Lasker's reply has been made than that in an editorial in the Ohio State Journal, the leading Republican newspaper in the capital of President Harding's own State. The Ohio State Journal says:

"Mr. Lasker, poor man, fails to see that the just objection to his contemplated excursion is founded on a principle, not on politics. Assuming that the trip is necessary, he says that the additional expense occasioned by having his guests abroad will amount to only about \$13,000. In other words, it is all right for a public official to misuse the tax money for his own pleasure or profit, if he misuses only a little of it.

"Mr. Lasker might better have said nothing in reply to the scorings which he has received from almost every high-minded newspaper in the country. His explanation only shows him unable to understand why he is in the wrong, and that is rather pitiful. A fine, discriminating sense of honor and of the general fitness of things in the administration of his trust ought to be the distinguishing attribute of every man in public life. But how many of them lack it! How many Laskers there are!"

Mr. Lasker's retirement from the Shipping Board was marked by a dinner tendered to him by the board at which the President of the United States and about a dozen guests were present. Chairman Lasker went out of office in a most luxurious environment. A description of the scene, as reported in the daily press, is worth reproduction:

"When the guests stepped from the elevator they found themselves in a small rose bower bordered with cedars that lead into a reception room, the walls of which were hidden by lattice-work intertwined with quantities of pink rambler roses. Banked about the walls were palms, ferns, and hydrangeas in great abundance.

"The chandeliers were hidden under arrangements of rambler roses and other flowers, while in the center of the room was a huge

earthen jar filled with American Beauty roses. Banked about the bottom of the jar were ferns and hydrangeas.

"The table was spread in the adjoining room, which was converted into a rose garden, with the walls and ceilings entirely hidden by lattice covered with pink rambler roses. Directly over the table hung blooming wisteria. The corners were banked with cedars, palms, and ferns amidst hydrangeas, while soft moss covered the floor.

"All around the table was a formal flower garden with blooming hydrangeas, peonies, and other early summer flowers and ferns, while an electric fountain played in one corner of the garden.

"Tiny amber and blue lights twinkled through the rose canopy overhead, giving the effect of a star-lit sky.

"The table itself was one solid mass, from the center to the handsome dinner plates of pink roses and pond lilies.

"Flitting about were servants garbed in quaint colonial costumes of white silk and lace frills and silk stockings, all made especially for the party.

Pastures For the Pigs.

"Experiments have shown and experience has proven that no Tarheel farmer should attempt to raise pigs, unless he first plans a definite system of pastures. This permanent pasture should be available for the hogs throughout the summer months and where provision has not been made for it, soybeans or cowpeas can be used to advantage by making plantings at different periods during the year so that other grazing fields will be provided as fast as one is exhausted," says Earl Hostetter, in charge of swine investigations for the State College and Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Hostetter states that to have a good permanent pasture, it needs to be seeded in the fall and a mixture of 14 pounds of orchard grass, 6 pounds of red clover, 4 pounds of white Dutch clover and 6 pounds of Alsike clover per acre will make a good mixture to use. Where the land is on bottoms, the Alsike clover may well be increased to take the place of the red clover. A pasture mixture of this kind or a seeding of alfalfa, red clover and alsike clover can be used with good results over all North Carolina. There are numerous other grasses and legumes such as Bermuda, burr clover, lespedeza or red top that will furnish good grazing for hogs, but these are not nearly so palatable as the legumes mentioned and will not give as good results, thinks Mr. Hostetter.

He says: "Through the fall and winter months oats and rye make fine grazing and may be sowed between rows at last working of the crops. This not only economizes on the land under plow but serves the two-fold purpose of soil building and grazing. During the spring months, the sows and their litters will thrive on oats and rape pasture and the hogs will later harvest that grain not consumed while the oats were being grazed.

"Good pastures are essential in hog raising but it must be kept in mind that the animals also need a good grain ration in addition."

The Farmer and the Pork Chop Profiteers.

On the morning that hogs were selling in Chicago for \$6.75 a hundredweight, the price of pork chops in the Arcade Market (housed in a building owned by the Government), in Washington, was 45 cents a pound. A retailer in this market expressed the opinion that the retail price of pork in Washington was not likely to be materially affected by the decline in the price of hogs in Chicago.

The hog for which the farmer received \$6.75 a hundredweight in Chicago would sell at retail in Washington—on the basis of present prices—at about \$25 a hundred pounds. The price of a hog at the farm is now only about \$5.50 a hundredweight.

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COST OF LIVING HIGHER.

Not Caused by Income Tax, But High Tariff.

Little reduction of the burden now being carried by the farmers and wage earners of the country may be expected from a decrease in income taxation, it is believed by those who have drawn conclusions from the latest statistics on income issued by the Department of Internal Revenue. It is not income taxes but the profiteers' tariff which must bear the responsibility for most of the high cost of living, in the opinion of these analysts.

The total number of income tax returns filed in 1921 (the latest year for which the figures are available) was 6,602,176. It is probable that this is also approximately the number of individual taxpayers. All of these persons paid taxes on net income aggregating \$19,577,212,528, of which \$13,813,169,165, or 70 per cent, was derived from salaries, wages, bonuses, etc. Those who paid income taxes in 1921 represented only about 17 per cent of the persons gainfully employed in 1920.

While the Democrats and progressive Republicans in Congress are eager to effect a reduction in income taxes for the farmers, wage-workers, and other small taxpayers, it is realized that any decrease would benefit only a relatively few and these in only a slight degree. Most of the wage-earners and farmers have incomes so small that they are not taxable under the law, but they are suffering from taxation of other kinds.

The Fordney-McCumber profiteers' tariff has swollen the cost

of living by not less than four billion dollars annually. This is equal to a tax of more than \$36 a year on every man, woman and child in the country or about \$160 a year for each American family. This Republican tariff has taken \$300,000,000 more from the farmers than it has returned to them in benefits, according to the experts of the Farm Bureau Federation. It has added to the wage-worker's cost of living without at the same time giving him anything like a fair equivalent in higher wages.

A reasonable reduction in the tariff—and it is agreed that it could be revised downward to save the people \$2,000,000,000 a year in the cost of living without materially diminishing revenues—will be undertaken by the Democrats in the next Congress, it is believed, but with Harding in the White House there is not much prospect that a decrease in rates can be accomplished. The farmers and workers can hardly look for any adequate relief until a Democratic President shall be elected.

The Republicans will fight to prevent a lowering of the tariff on the products of the big interests which contribute to the Republican party's campaign funds, especially when that is proposed on the eve of a presidential election.

One of the greatest needs of farmers in Stanley County is more legume hay states County Agent O. H. Phillips after three years in the county. One farmer took this advice to heart and kept his livestock in better condition last winter than ever before with one-third less grain.

Depreciation of Farmer's Dollar Admitted.

Included in a sheaf of publicity material broadcast by the Republican National Committee appears an item that confirms what Democrats have been saying about the depreciation of the farmer's dollar as a consequence of high prices and profiteering. The Republican tariff has given the profiteers and extortioners their best opportunity.

"Increased cost of agricultural production, on account of higher wages and higher cost of material, now confronts the American farmers, according to reports received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture," says this Republican publicity. "The effect of this will be either higher prices for farm products or curtailment of quantity of farm production or both."

"The purchasing power of the farmer's dollar is about stationary, compared with previous months. At present the index of the purchasing power of farm products is 70."

There is an appreciable increase in farm wages but the chief cause of the growing cost of producing crops is the tariff, which has added \$301,000,000 to the cost of the American farmer's living over and above any benefit he derives from Republican "protection."

The old hog wallow is an expensive bath for all hogs and more especially the young pigs under four months of age. Young pigs are susceptible to parasites and flth born disease say extension workers of the State College and Department of Agriculture.

TOBACCO GROWERS GUARD 1923 CROP.

BIG PLANTER IN COURT.
Eastern Belt Co-ops. Hold Meetings —S. C. Members to Improve Grading.

The Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association hit hard and high in its first legal action to protect the tobacco of the 1923 crop which is pledged to the association by contract when it gained a temporary restraining order against F. A. Elks of Pitt county, last week. Elks, who is called the largest tobacco grower in North Carolina's largest tobacco growing county, is required to appear in court this week to show cause why he should not be restrained from delivering his tobacco outside of the association of which he is a member.

Elks is also being sued in the amount of \$6,000 for liquidated damages for alleged deliveries of 120,000 pounds of tobacco outside of the association. The restraining order which calls him to appear before Judge Cramer of the Wake county Superior Court, on June 29, is due to alleged threats to deliver his 1923 crop outside the association. R. N. Elks, a kinsman, is also required to appear in court on the same day for similar reasons.

Growing enthusiasm among the organized tobacco farmers of Eastern Carolina was evidenced by a series of rousing meetings last week among the farmers of Pitt, Johnston and Beaufort counties. In Pitt county members of the association endorsed their directors and denounced the methods of propaganda and intimidation by which those opposing cooperative marketing are reported as endeavoring to cause still further contract breaking in the Eastern Belt. Tobacco farmers from thirty Johnston county locals who held a meeting at Smithfield, expressed their resentment over the reported attempts of outsiders to break down morale of weak-kneed members, in a strong resolution which commended the merchants of Johnston county who have aided the farmers in their efforts to establish better methods of marketing.

Congressman H. S. Ward addressed hundreds of co-op farmers at a great barbecue of members of the cotton and tobacco associations near Washington last week when they met for an all-day celebration of the success of their associations.

The tobacco cooperative will begin its second important step in commodity marketing in South Carolina early in July with visits by an expert corps of graders to 150 local units of the association. In the Palmetto State, where demonstrations of sorting and bundling tobacco and uniform grading will be given to thousands of growers. W. E. Lea, field service representative of the association in South Carolina, and C. O. Dixon, its manager of warehouses for that state, announce that these meetings will be open to members and non-members alike. They estimate that the visits of the association's most successful graders to every county of the South Carolina Belt will increase the value of the crop in that section by many thousands of dollars.

Get Rams Early.

Raleigh, N. C. June 25.—"The season for breeding ewes for early lambs is at hand. The farmer can avoid delay and generally save money by making inquiry for a ram in advance of his actual needs. It is bad policy to send further and pay more money for a ram when one could have been found near at hand at a lower price," is a timely recommendation made by G. P. Williams, Sheep Field man for the Agricultural Extension Service. He states that North Carolina should produce its own field rams and use every good ram in the State to best advantage.

"The policy of sticking to a stiff price in selling a ram is bad for both buyer and seller. It often kills the sale—depriving the buyer of what he needs and leaves a surplus ram on hand when he could have been sold at a price fair to both parties," says Mr. Williams.

Western Farmers' Revolt Shown in Iowa Election.

The revolt of the indignant and ruined farmers of the West against the Republican high tariff and the failure of the Harding administration to give agricultural relief is again demonstrated by the results of a special election on June 4 in the Eighth Congressional district of Iowa, where the Republican candidate for Congress claims election by a bare majority in a district normally Republican by between 8,000 and 9,000.

J. P. Daughton, the Democratic candidate, cut down the Republican majority to 7,000 in 1922 against Congressman Towner and in the special election cut it down almost to the vanishing point, carrying counties heretofore strongly Republican. The big turn-over is shown by Appanoose county with a Republican majority of 1,730 in 1922, now giving 242 Democratic majority and Lucas county with nearly 1,000 Republican majority in 1922, now giving 480 Democratic majority.

As this is written the actual result is in doubt. Chairman Hull of the Democratic National Committee declares that this great reverse amounting to a Democratic victory presages a political revolution in 1924 and he congratulates the Democrats on being alert, united, and eager for the fray.

There is a cropping time in the races of men, as in the fruits of the field; and sometimes, if the stock be good, there springs up for a time a succession of splendid men; and then comes a period of barrenness.—Aristotle.

Many big features have been added to the program of the Farmers' Convention at the State College, July 31-Aug. 2. Mark these dates on your calendar and prepare to attend.

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