

THE PROBLEM OF HIGH PRICES

On all sides we hear complaint about the high cost of living. And it is no idle complaint; it is warranted by the facts. Prices are extraordinarily and ruinously high. And in many instances the high prices are not based on the law of supply and demand; they are artificial; they are profiteering.

The merchant gets blamed; but, in most cases, he cannot help himself; he has to pay enormously high prices for what he buys; and, though he advances his prices, he frequently advances them less than in proportion; he actually, in many cases, makes a smaller profit than he did two years ago. The ultimate consumer gets it in the neck.

The war is over. But we are paying more for a good many things than we paid a year ago when the war was on and prospects were gloomy. What is the cause of it all? Under the law of supply and demand, when that law is allowed to operate freely, it is all a question of labor and material. The labor supply is now greater than it was a year ago, and the labor demand is less, because many war activities have been or are being diminished or discontinued. The supply of material is increasing, and the demand is not increasing. Therefore prices ought to be falling. What is the reason why prices of many things do not fall and prices of some things are actually rising?

One reason appears to be government price fixing. In this connection we will give some remarkable facts and figures which call for very serious consideration.

On January 1, 1919, there were more than sixty million pounds of frozen pork in storage. On January 1, 1918, there were thirty million pounds in storage. In other words, the amount in storage is double what it was a year ago. Also, the present hog crop of the United States is 70 per cent above normal. Also, the amount of dry pork stocks is 50 per cent more than it was a year ago. Also, the present amount of lard in the United States is more than 100 per cent greater than it was a year ago.

Yet the present price of pork is more than double the normal price, and more than three times the price which prevailed at one time since the outbreak of the war.

The price is being kept up by an agreement between the packers and the meat division of the national food administration. And, unless some patriot finds a way to smash that agreement, a number of the citizens of the United States will be liable to face starvation in the very near future.

The 1918 wheat crop was almost 50 per cent greater than the 1917 wheat crop. The average estimate on the crop for 1919 is about double the 1917 crop. The price is fixed at \$2.26 per bushel. The people of the United States cannot consume half of this year's estimated crop. (If the present price holds, they will consume a good deal less, because of financial inability to buy.) We cannot export wheat at \$2.26. Argentina wheat sold last week at \$1.28 3-4. Australia and Canada are ready to sell at \$1.26.

Of course, the government must keep its promise to the farmers. It must buy their wheat at \$2.26, because it contracted to do so. But there are a good many people who contend that, having bought that wheat, the government should sell it in the open market for what it will bring, and thus help to prevent the suffering and actual starvation that would otherwise develop in many cities. The government would lose money by doing so; it would lose perhaps the cost of ten days of war. The loss, it is urged, would be a legitimate war expense, because the \$2.26 contract was a war measure. Also, it is entirely justifiable to incur some loss in order to keep our own fellow citizens from starving.

If some patriot can succeed in smashing the nefarious agreement between the food administration and the packers, and thus turn loose on the market the immense amounts of hoarded pork, mal-nutrition and sickness might be reduced and some deaths prevented in a good many cities and towns in the United States.

For some time past predictions have been made that before long there will be bread lines in the larger cities. That terrible condition now appears to be rapidly approaching.

THOMAS SETTLE

Thomas Settle, thrice Congressman from the fifth North Carolina district, one of the most brilliant political speakers in the State and a Republican of state-wide and national acquaintance; a close friend of the late Thomas B. Reed and in 1912 the regular Republican candidate for Governor of North Carolina, died Monday night at 8 o'clock at the Mission hospital in Asheville from pneumonia.

Mr. Settle was born in Rockingham county, adjoining Guilford but moved with his parents to Greensboro in his early youth where he lived until he went to Asheville about 15 years ago to make his home. He was a son of the late Judge Settle, who made state history in his memorable race against Zebulon B. Vance for Governor during the campaign of 1876.

Mr. Settle was several times elected solicitor of his judicial district and was three times elected to Congress, defeating Archibald Williams, R. B. Glenn and Judge Graham. While in Congress he served with marked distinction. Among his friends and associates was Thomas B. Reed for whom he voted for Speaker of the House.

After going to Asheville Mr. Settle took a prominent part in politics and in almost every campaign his services as a speaker were in demand. Several years ago he made the race for the state senate against Charles A. Webb, the present United States marshal for this district, but was defeated at the polls. Mr. Settle had national reputation as an orator and was regarded as one of the most able political speakers of his time, and, without a superior in the State in joint debate or on the stump.

Surviving is a widow, who was Miss Eliza Potter, of Wilmington. The Greensboro News, in its account of Mr. Settle's career, says:

"News of the death of Thomas Settle was received here with genuine regret. Although a native of Rockingham county, his parents, the late Judge and Mrs. Thomas Settle, removed to Greensboro when he was a lad and Greensboro regarded him as a native son. He removed to Asheville about 15 years ago, but made frequent visits to his old home, where he was always welcomed by a host of friends.

"Soon after maturity he received his license to practice law and later removed to Rockingham county. He was for a time solicitor of the district and was later elected to serve the fifth district in Congress.

"Mr. Settle was 64 years of age. Surviving are his wife, formerly Miss Eliza Potter, of Wilmington, and the following brothers and sisters: David Settle, who resides near this city; Col. Douglas Settle, now in France; Mrs. W. P. Beall and Mrs. B. C. Sharpe, of Greensboro; Mrs. S. H. Boyd, of Washington city; Mrs. James Renwick Wilkes, of Charlotte; Miss Floreta Settle, of Paris; Mrs. Frederick Hurst Mair, of Philadelphia; also a number of other relatives here and elsewhere."

WEED PLANTING NEW FORM OF I. W. W.

The sowing of noxious weed seeds is the most recent form of sabotage practiced by the I. W. W. in California, according to testimony in the trial at Sacramento of 46 members of that order.

In numerous cases the advance in wages has not kept pace with the advance in food prices. In numerous other cases (and these are to be reckoned by the hundreds of thousands, and perhaps by the million) there are no wages at all because the laborers are out of work. Yet, in the face of these facts, the price of food is artificially boosted.

Let us repeat the outstanding facts:

There is abundant wheat and flour on hand, and this year's wheat crop will be twice as much as we can consume;

The present hog crop is 70 per cent above normal, and the amount of pork products in storage is double what it was a year ago;

And yet our own people are threatened with death from starvation because the price of these products is being deliberately and artificially boosted to a point averaging 100 per cent above what they would bring under the operation of the natural law of supply and demand.

The government can give relief at once, if it chooses.

LEGISLATURE

The Legislature has done very little of general interest or importance up to this time. Monday the House met at 2:30 o'clock and adjourned in less than an hour for Lee-Jackson day. In that time it passed the Stubbs' bill amending the Page blocking law so that the first offense will not be a felony and demand a year in the penitentiary. The Page law enacted by the Legislature two years ago makes persons guilty of the illicit manufacture of liquor felons and provides that they shall be punished with from one to five years' hard labor in the State's prison.

A bill providing a more liberal alimony to the wife in divorce cases was also passed by the House Monday.

The Senate remained in session only 2 minutes and considered only routine matter. During this time it received the first tax bill to be presented in that body this session. The bill was introduced by Senator Humphrey of Wayne county. The bill provides for a State Board of Revaluation consisting of five members which would have supervision of re-assessing all taxable property in the State on a true value basis, its work to be completed by October, 1920, and the sum of \$375,000 to be appropriated to carry on the work.

The Senate in like manner as the House, adjourned for Lee-Jackson day.

At Tuesday's session of the Senate a bill was introduced by Senator Scales of Guilford, to allow women to vote in all primary elections in North Carolina.

Senator Beddingfield of Wake introduced a resolution requesting members of Congress to oppose certain encroachments upon the rights of States.

Senator Mangum of Gaston introduced a bill requiring fathers of illegitimate children to provide for their maintenance and education.

Senator Scales introduced a bill amending the present seduction law so as not to permit a defendant to be convicted upon the unsupported testimony of the woman involved.

A bill permitting either husband or wife to testify in criminal conversation cases, was passed by the Senate Tuesday.

At Tuesday's session of the House, a bill was introduced to provide for the temporary removal of the patients from Caswell Training school to the State hospital at Raleigh, the dormitories at the school having recently been burned. The bill was passed.

A bill was also introduced by Swann of Polk, to require the publication of proceedings of the General Assembly, Corporation Commission, school boards, and municipalities; also advance publication of proposed laws or amendments to the constitution.

Tuesday in the House a resolution was passed inviting Woodrow Wilson to speak in Raleigh.

A bill was also passed to authorize the Governor to appoint the North Carolina Memorial Building committee.

Representative Jackson of this county has introduced a bill in the House providing for a material increase in the pensions of ex-Confederate soldiers and the widows of deceased ex-Confederate soldiers.

The following bills applicable to Henderson county only, have been introduced by Representative Jackson:

A bill to provide for better drainage of wet land where the people want such drainage.

A bill to allow the remains of Walter Sigmon to be taken up and re-interred elsewhere.

STILL DESTROYED

At an early hour Sunday morning Sheriff Case cut up an illicit still, which was located on a small branch in the vicinity of the Vincent place, about 4 miles from Hendersonville. The still was of the steamer pattern, and, from the looks of things about the plant, one or more runs of liquor had been made there. About 1,000 gallons of beer and several fermenters were destroyed by the Sheriff at the same time he cut up the still.

Just as a man is known by the company he keeps, so the public puts an estimate upon a business man by the kind and amount of advertising he does in the papers of his town. By this means a petty correct estimate can be arrived at.

TEACHERS MEET

The public school teachers of the county met Saturday. The attendance was small. Dr. L. B. Morse, new county physician, spoke to the teachers with reference to reporting contagious diseases, actual and suspected. Arrangements were made for the teachers' reading course. The movement for better pay for teachers was presented and cards were signed to be forwarded to State headquarters from which they will be sent to the Legislature.

G. O. P. DRAFTS POLICY

The task of outlining a policy for both branches of Congress already has been commenced by Republicans in both the Senate and the House. Work on the policy was launched immediately after the meeting of the Republican national committee in Chicago. Instead of independent action the Republicans have asserted that there will be complete co-ordination between the committee and the members of the party in Congress.

While the Republican policy has not been announced, it is said that it will be in favor of a progressive program of reconstruction. The party will approve woman suffrage and will oppose government ownership, will express in their policy a determination to eliminate the evils that existed under the old system of private ownership.

Organize "Listening Posts"

Will H. Hays, chairman, has been authorized to organize the work of the national committee. It has been decided to establish "listening posts" at prominent points in the country. One already has been placed at San Francisco, another is to be located at Denver, Col., and still another at Chicago. There will be a sub-organization for the committee in New York city which will furnish the nucleus for an organization planned to reach into every precinct in the United States.

Only two attempts have been made to launch a candidacy for president and they were done by friends of Gov. Frank O. Lowden, of Illinois, and friends of General John J. Pershing in Ohio. The committee has expressed its opposition to the "favorite son" movement as being a backdoor method of approaching the selection of a candidate.

West Favors General Wood

According to delegates who attended the committee meeting in Chicago, the West is strongly in favor of General Leonard Wood as a candidate. William Howard Taft will be looked to for advice and not for leadership, according to Republican leaders. Among those mentioned as possible candidates among the "favorite sons" are General Pershing, Senator Hiram Johnson, of California; Senator Medill McCormick, of Illinois; Governor Goodrich and Senator James E. Watson, of Indiana; Elihu Root and Senator Lodge.

NEW JUDGESHIP

Congress has passed the bill providing for the appointment of an additional judge in districts where the present judge is past the age when he can retire on full pay, and refuses to do so. The bill provides that the President may in his discretion, appoint an additional judge in districts where the present judge has served as much as ten years on the bench, and has passed the age when the law permits him to retire on full pay, and he refuses to retire. Anticipating that another judge will be appointed for the Western District of North Carolina, a large number of "deserving" Democrats have entered the scramble for appointment to the new judgeship. Among them, are several from Asheville, quite a number from Charlotte, and others scattered about the district. The friends and endorsers of W. C. Newland of Lenoir, claim that he is leading in the race for the appointment.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OFFICERS

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist church has elected officers as follows:

President, Mrs. C. Few; 1st vice president, Mrs. F. E. Durfee; 2nd vice president, Mrs. J. F. Byers; 3rd vice president, Mrs. J. Mack Rhodes; 4th vice president, Mrs. Guy E. Dixon; recording secretary, Miss Ella McClain; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. F. Bland; treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Brooks; agent for the Voice, Mrs. W. H. Justus; superintendent of supplies, Mrs. M. R. Allen.

REAL ESTATE

The following real estate transfers have been closed this week through the agency of Staton & Rector.

James T. Staton to Fleetwood Laneau of Georgia, 65-acre farm in Blue Ridge township. Consideration \$4,000.

A. L. Gurley to Charles Taylor, house and lot on 8th avenue West. Consideration \$2,000.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CLUB MEMBERS NEXT SATURDAY

The annual meeting of the members of the Boys' and Girls' Corn, Pig, Potato and Poultry clubs will be held at the court house Saturday, January 25, at 11 o'clock. This was to have been held in December, but as I had influenza at that time I was unable to arrange for it.

Members are asked to bring corn, potatoes or chickens, according to which club they are in, to exhibit and compete for the prizes offered for the best shown. Prizes will also be awarded to those who have done the best work during the past year in the various clubs. If for any reason any one failed to carry their work out through the year, they are urged to come and be with us and let us make some plans for this year's work.

One of the Extension service men has promised to be with us that day. I also have a club pin for all those who sent me their reports.

FRANK FLEMING,
County Agent.

LICENSE SYSTEM IS BEING RELAXED

In accordance with the policy of the food administration of relaxing trades from the restraint of war legislation as rapidly as possible, a large number of articles have been withdrawn from the license system, and manufacturers or dealers in these products are no longer required to have a license to operate. These products include syrups, peas, beans, poultry, fish, fruit, vegetables, canned goods, bread, coffee, and practically all food stuffs.

All persons engaged in the manufacture, storage or distribution of wheat and other grains, beef, pork or mutton, peanuts, cottonseed and cottonseed products, butter, cheese, eggs, sugar, vegetable fats and oils, wheat feeds, corn meal, hominy, starch, corn syrup and rice, are still subject to license.

Every manufacturer or dealer handling food or feed stuff must still conform to the provisions of the food control act, which prohibits speculation, profiteering and waste.

ASHEVILLE TRIBUNE INCORPORATED

The Asheville Daily Tribune Publishing Company was incorporated last Saturday by the Secretary of State. The authorized capital stock is \$100,000, but the company is authorized to commence business when \$30,000 has been subscribed for. Some of the incorporators are, L. L. Jenkins of Asheville, R. C. Clarke of Hendersonville, C. J. Harris of Hillsboro, C. Brewster Chapman of Asheville, B. Jackson of Hendersonville, J. B. Ensley of Sylva, L. H. Green of Old Fort, F. W. Thomas of Asheville and James J. Britt of Asheville.

The purpose of the company is to publish a Republican newspaper at Asheville to be known as the Asheville Daily Tribune. The above are only a few of the stockholders in the company. Almost every leading Republican in Western North Carolina has subscribed for some of the stock of the corporation, and many others will do so right along, from time to time. More than \$30,000 worth of the stock has already been taken, and the company hopes to begin the publication of its paper within ninety days from now.

METHODIST CHURCH OFFICERS

Following are the newly elected officers of the Hendersonville Methodist church:

Treasurer, F. H. Kincaid; secretary, C. F. Bland; finance committee, F. E. Durfee, S. J. Harris, F. S. Wetmur, C. F. Bland, A. L. Gurley; church up-keep committee, J. F. Byers, J. D. Pullen, P. J. Gilreath, J. T. Henderson; publicity committee, C. F. Bland, F. V. Hunter, C. E. Brooks; music committee, Mrs. Katie Toms, Mrs. L. M. Colt, Sam T. Hodges, C. F. Bland.

Buy War Stamps.

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST

The secretary of the treasury has just placed an additional sum of \$100,000,000 to the credit of Italy, making the total of the American loans to that country for war expenses, \$1,310,000,000 and our total loans to all of the allies, \$8,585,523,702.

AMERICA'S PREMIER ACE

Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, of Columbus, O., is America's premier flying ace as the result of the European war. He has to his credit 26 German machines.

Second in rank is Lieut. Frank Luke, Jr., of Phoenix, Ariz., who was killed in action. His victories totaled 18. Maj. Victor Raoul Lufberry, of Wallingford, Conn., also killed in action, was third on the list, with 17 machines to his credit. Capt. Reed G. Dandis, of Chicago, and Lieut. David E. Putnam, of Brookline, Mass., tied for fourth place, each having 12 victories. Putnam was killed in action near the end of the war.

The report shows 62 American aces—men who downed five or more enemy machines in action—when the war ended.

GUILTY OF SEDITION

Five prominent Socialists, arrested on charges of sedition and disloyalty, were convicted before Federal Judge Landis in Chicago. One of the defendants was Victor L. Berger, of Milwaukee, Wis., who was recently elected United States Congressman. Berger and his associates face sentences of from 1 to 20 years, in addition to a maximum fine of \$10,000 each.

JOBS AWAIT SOLDIERS

The work of placing discharged soldiers and sailors in suitable occupations is "progressing rapidly and smoothly and the military authorities are giving the federal employment service representatives—the closest kind of co-operation," according to a statement issued by the Department of Labor.

Chicago reports that "not a single instance has occurred where an employer has refused to re-employ a discharged soldier or sailor." Out of 19,000 men discharged at Camp Grant, Ill., 60 per cent had secured employment before they left camp. At the Great Lakes Training school 5,200 out of 6,200 discharges were employed before they left the station.

BUFFALO FOR NATIONAL PARK

Six buffalo, presented to the government by Austin Corbin from his famous herd in the Blue Mountains of New Hampshire, were delivered the first of the week at the reservation a short distance out from Hendersonville, and turned loose in the big pasture of the game preserve. The big animals were shipped in crates by express, and all were delivered in good shape. They will make a splendid addition to the variety of game which Uncle Sam already has in this preserve.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE

A few days ago 400 delegates from all sections of the country, and representing more than 3,000,000 American Jews, assembled at Philadelphia for the second session of the American Jewish Congress. The delegates were unusually enthusiastic because of the present bright prospects for the re-establishment of a Jewish nation in Palestine and the realization of the aspirations of the Jewish people throughout the world during the last 2,000 years for a homeland of their own.

That their hopes in this respect are well founded seems evident from the fact that the project has already been approved by France, Italy, Serbia and also by our own President, and moreover the attitude of the delegates to the peace conference is reported to be, almost without exception, favorable to the plan.

BOY KILLED BY LIVE WIRE

Just as we were going to press the news came of the death of Walter Gibbs on the Lake road in the vicinity of Pleasant Hill. While walking along the road he touched a live wire, which was down, and was killed instantly.