

### HOUSE SHORTAGE WORST FEATURE

#### Is Thought to be Principal Bar to an Immediate Return to Normalcy.

By RALPH BARTON  
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Washington, June 4.—State governments throughout the country are coming to realize generally the importance of rent regulation, according to a statement today by officials of the Department of Labor, who have just completed a survey of rent exaggeration and who are now engaged in inquiries concerning the drop in living costs.

These investigations of living costs show that, while food, clothing, fuel, house furnishings and other items of the family budget have decreased considerably, rents on the whole are continuing to rise. In Chicago, though, the increase in rents has been very large during the last six months. In most large cities, rents have advanced perceptibly in the face of diminishing costs of commodities generally.

#### RENTS CONTINUING CLIMB

Statistics already obtained show that, in Chicago, where rents last December were about fifty per cent higher than during the pre-war period, they are now seventy-eight per cent higher. New York, Philadelphia and other cities show in general a tendency on the part of rents to advance, though living costs as a whole have declined on the average about fifteen per cent from their peak in May or June of last year.

Secretary Davis has made clear his own opinion that the housing situation in the United States is the principal bar to a return to normal conditions. In the first place, housing is utterly inadequate in this country today. Building was held up during the war because of the necessity that labor should be diverted to the war work. Since the armistice, building has continued to lag, principally because of enormous costs of building materials and, in some places at least, because of somewhat questionable practices in which both builders and labor officials were involved.

As a result of these conditions, housing in the United States, according to recent estimates, is one million, two hundred thousand homes short of what is actually needed and the present rate of home construction is said to be insufficient to replace buildings destroyed by fire. With building costs as high as they are, landlords are capitalizing their holdings at replacement values and the consequences are increasing rents, increasing congestion and considerable hardships for tenants.

Secretary Davis has been much concerned with the housing problem and believes that if it can be relieved promptly, much will be accomplished toward the promotion of normal economic conditions. The increase in rents in some places practically counteracts the gain in the purchasing value of the dollar made by drops in food prices and, since workmen are almost painfully conscious of such increases, they re-

### STIMULATION OF AMERICAN TRADE

#### In Foreign Fields is Being Studied to Decrease Unemployment in U. S.

By L. C. MARTIN,  
United Press Staff Correspondent.  
Washington, June 4.—Stimulation of foreign trade as a means of finding jobs for the jobless in the United States is being studied in Congress in the hope that legislative aid may be rendered. Already three items in a program of helping increase export trade have been worked out and others are to follow.

Particular attention is being paid by Congressional leaders for foreign markets to Latin-America. Natural and gradual improvements will come in the European trade situation, they believe, and this was borne out this week by reports from American consuls and commercial attaches abroad predicting an increase in trade with Europe in the near future. Therefore, new trade should be developed in new fields, Senators and Representatives believe. Three steps thus far initiated include:

Approval this week by the Senate of an appropriation of \$250,000 for granting Eastern opportunities to extend United States trade.

Introduction by Senator Norris, Nebraska, of a bill creating a \$100,000,000 farm export corporation to send American farm products abroad.

Announcement today by Senator Borah that he will hold hearings next week on the bill repealing the Panama Canal tolls for American ships as a means of helping American vessels in the Far East and Latin-American trade.

Borah intends to have brief hearings, probably about midweek, to be followed by early consideration of the tolls repeal in the Senate. The bill is expected to pass with the support of a united republican majority.

sent being asked to accept wage reductions in the face of them.

#### CARFARE, TOO.

The cost of street railway transportation is another big item in the wage earner's budget, at least in many cities. In Boston, for example, car fare has doubled and the man who must ride to work spends \$1.20 a week to do so. The cost of trolley transportation naturally has an intimate relation to rents, for high fares tend to keep men as near the center of a city as they can get, in order that they may walk to work.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has found that the reflex of the conditions has been rather drastic rent legislation covering, in short, practically all the features of European rent legislation. Thus regulated by law in New York, Maine and Washington and the District of Columbia, Eviction of tenants except under certain specified conditions is forbidden in New York and the District; New York and New Jersey are encouraging builders by remission of taxation; North and South Dakota are lending money for home building, and New York and California are considering similar measures.

### 4 MILLION IDLE IN UNITED KINGDOM

#### Great Britain Apparently Facing Prolonged Industrial Struggle.

By WILLIAM L. MALLABAR,  
International News Staff Correspondent.  
London, June 4.—Four million workers in the United Kingdom are idle tonight, either striking or unemployed. The miners' executives tonight branded the latest offer of the mine owners as "cynically paltry and resentful," adding:

"We are being asked to sell our labor as if we were chattels."

Delegates of half a million striking cotton operatives, charging trickery on the part of the mill owners, announced they "would have accepted anything in reason and with honor, but we are not going to be trodden on and then kicked."

The above expressions by strike leaders in the midst of Britain's industrial crisis reveal the temper of the workers and indicate that the kingdom is faced with a prolonged struggle. Indeed, it is feared even in conservative quarters that the struggle is again drifting alarmingly out of the government's hands.

The cabinet was admittedly nervous throughout the day. The government was understood to regard the sudden intensifying of the crisis as a reaction of the workers to the announcement that the unemployment insurance funds are exhausted, involving a sharp reduction of the weekly aid. This affects 2,126,900 persons officially registered as entitled to the government "dole."

From the coal fields comes a daily increasing number of ominous reports from local guardians of charity funds that their resources are overdrawn and mortgaged.

The start of the cotton strike is bitterly illustrated by the statement of E. Judson, president of the Operative Spinners' Amalgamation, who said "we went the limit; our concessions reached the point where human endurance could go no further. The employers think we have nothing to fight with and are done. On the other hand, the damage to capital by flooding, heretofore belittled, is suddenly recognized. Experts are assessing the damage in Scotland alone at \$10,000,000. It is too early yet to judge. Many of our people have been fighting on empty stomachs. They can go further."

#### DOG PROVES LOVE FOR MASTER.

Eugene, Ore.—Proof that there is no greater love than that of a dog for his master was given by a Scotch collie which had to be lassoed before his neighbors could remove the dead body of his master, Christian Wizenreid, who dropped dead or his farm near here.

When neighbors came upon the body of Wizenreid, a 53-year-old resident of Lane county, the dog refused to allow them to come close. After he had lowered the hearse twelve miles into Eugene and entered the undertaking parlor, where it took considerable maneuvering to put him out.

### AGRICULTURISTS DECIDE ON DRIVE

#### Secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture Should Be on Reserve Board.

By J. BART CAMPBELL,  
International News Staff Correspondent.  
Washington, June 4.—A "drive" to make the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce members of the Federal Reserve Board was started tonight by 22 Republican and Democratic Senators from so-called agricultural states composing the recently-organized "agricultural bloc."

It was agreed at a meeting of the Senators that they should stand together, irrespective of party or sectional affiliations, behind a bill sponsored by Senator Capper, republican, Kansas, that would not only provide for the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Commerce sitting on the Federal Reserve Board, but would give the agricultural interests, through them, a direct voice in the board's deliberations and decisions.

The meeting was held behind closed doors. Senators Capper and Kenyon, republican, Iowa, being designated to announce the legislative program adopted.

Support of the Senate packer control bill as a substitute for the one passed by the House recently; the Capper-Tincher "anti-grain gambling" bill; and the Capper-French, "truth in prices" bill was embraced in the program.

A sub-committee headed by Senator Smith, democrat, South Carolina, was appointed to work out proposed changes in the Federal Reserve act. The sub-committee was authorized to confer with Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and Comptroller of the Currency Crissinger next week.

Amendments suggested would make it mandatory on banks members of the Federal reserve system to make loans to farmers and livestock men upon warehouse receipts for a 12-month period, it being contended the customary commercial loan of only 30 to 90 days is not sufficient for agricultural needs.

#### U. STUDENT HAS FOOT AMPUTATED BY TRAIN

Chapel Hill, June 4.—W. E. Conley, of Glen Alpine, Burke county, a pharmacy student at the University of North Carolina, trying to board a moving train at Carrboro, the Chapel Hill station, this morning, slipped and fell with his foot across the track. The train smashed his right foot badly. He was taken to Watts hospital and about half the foot removed.

#### SOB SISTERS DUPE PUBLIC.

Paris.—All Paris was touched a month ago by the story of two young girls whose parents had been killed by the war and who, having lost their employment in a factory through illness, sprang together, one Sunday afternoon, in the River Seine, but were rescued.

A newspaper opened a subscription for them which is said to have reached \$10,000.

The statement is now made in the Eclair that the girls are excellent swimmers who have played the same trick on the generous public in several provincial towns.

### NO SURPRISE AT DECISION HERE

#### Mayor Walker Hopes Relief May Yet Be Obtained From Situation.

Word that the state supreme court had upheld the ruling of the attorney general with regard to the invalidation of the municipal finance act was received Saturday with regret but not with surprise by Mayor J. O. Walker and his two colleagues. The mayor had been informed by the city attorney and other members of the local bar that the supreme court could not declare the act valid under the circumstances.

The decision, nevertheless, leaves the commissioners "still up the tree" with regard to their financial program for the coming year. Although a new budget was scheduled to have become operative June 1, the commissioners have taken no steps towards preparing it, preferring to spend as little money as possible and await continued efforts to secure relief from the situation before framing a budget for the coming year.

Mayor Walker said he expected to receive a communication from President Roberts, of the State Association of Mayors, the first of the week which will contain information regarding continuing the fight to get around the bad financial straits in which cities have been placed by the invalidation of the act.

The only hope which Mayor Walker can see is a special session of the legislature. If the cities only knew if a session would be held in the next 60 days, 90 days or in the next four or five months they would know what to do, the mayor said. As the matter stands now, however, city officials do not know whether to plan for the operation of the city on a revenue of from 25 to 40 per cent lower than last year or hold up a program with the hope that relief may be obtained in the next few months.

Unless relief is procured, the city of Charlotte will have from 25 to 40 per cent less revenue for covering operating expenses during the coming year than last year. The commissioners will be unable to sell bonds for carrying out any constructive work and they will be so hampered financially as to make it barely possible to maintain all of the departments.

Mayor Walker said that he felt certain relief would be obtained, even if extra session of the legislature should be necessary. The indefiniteness of the expected relief is worrying the officials considerably, however.

#### FINDS RELIC OF CIVILIZATION

Boston.—To the stork goes the blame or credit for Charles Thurston's discovery of a bottle of ripe old champagne. The bottle of "contraband" was presented to Thurston on his marriage day, forty-seven years ago, to be opened when his first baby was born. The champagne, laid away and forgotten came to light when Thurston was preparing to move. He will not wait for the stork.

#### CHINESE EDUCATORS IN ENGLAND

London.—Commissioners appointed by the Chinese government to study the United States and European educational systems have arrived in London.

They have already made an extensive tour of the United States, and will remain in England for several weeks before going to France.

The party hopes to be able to investigate every form of education in this country from the elementary schools to the universities.

### SUMMER SCHOOL TO OPEN MONDAY

#### Two Hundred Students Expected to Enter Summer Session.

Around 200 students who failed to make their grade during the last term are expected to enter in the city summer school which will open Monday at 9 o'clock in the Junior High School for a course of eight weeks.

The summer school has been operated for several years and has made it possible for hundreds of students to "catch up" in their studies and thereby gain promotion at the beginning of the next term.

Aubrey M. Elliott, who has been principal of the Junior High School, will be in charge of the summer school. The faculty was announced Saturday by H. P. Harding, superintendent of schools, as follows:

High school section: Fred B. McCall, Misses Bertha Donnelly, Minnie Downs, Jessie Henderson and Mrs. W. F. Trucker; seventh grade: Mrs. C. W. Jones; sixth grade, Miss Ethel Ray; fifth grade, Miss Ethel Delaney; fourth grade, Miss Gay Willis.

Other teachers will be added during the term if the attendance warrants it. Mr. Harding said. The school will open each morning at 9 o'clock, continuing in session until 12:30.

The summer schools have proved exceptionally popular with students of the public schools. Mr. Harding said. It has enabled hundreds during the last few years to save a year in their work, and continued good results are anticipated for the session opening Monday.

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### NOL PROS CASE AGAINST MOSER

#### Evidence Does Not Prove Carpenter Dropped Plank Intentionally.

The case against J. J. Moser, a carpenter, charged with attempting to drop a plank on the head of C. Graham, a plumber, while the two were at work on a house on East Boulevard extended Saturday in the recorder's court Saturday when the recorder announced that he did not have sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction.

A warrant was issued against Moser Friday charging him with attempting to drop a plank from the top of a house on the head of Graham who was engaged in lumbering work directly beneath. Moser contended that the plank slipped from his hand and that he called to Graham to "look out of the way."

Unpleasant feeling between the two men is alleged to have resulted from a quarrel during the morning between Moser, who belongs to a union, and Graham, who does not.

Solicitor T. C. Guthrie, Jr., brought the charges against Moser and told the recorder that he believed the occurrence was accidental. Graham was required to pay the costs of the case. Graham was not struck by the plank.

In Portugal the marriage age of men is fourteen, of women twelve, the same law being in operation in Switzerland.

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