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LET CONGRESS GIVE THE RELIEF.

While the food conservation and economy committees are busy trying to tell the people how to conserve and economize, the distributors of the food supply of this country, who have been gouging enormous profits out of the people for the past few years, continue their piratical speculations—gradually raising the price of food. If those who are so deeply interested in the economy work would expend half as much effort in inducing the "parasites and robbers" who hold the food supply of this country to sell at a rate that would give them a legitimate profit and at the same time be within the reach of the man with the limited payroll, there would be but little need of all this economy and conservation agitation which which is driving the people to hysteria. We do not believe it would be necessary to employ secret service men to ferret out the responsibility for many of the advances in food prices in this section, for we understand that there has been many carloads of flour purchased by local wholesale dealers at prices that would justify them in selling at a much lower price than is now charged, but who seem to have lost all human spirit and determined to bleed the people to the extreme limit under the pretext of "war prices."

If the economy agitators who are preaching conservation and economy will get down to business and induce those who control the food supply to evince their patriotism by sacrificing the enormous profits they are bleeding the people for and selling the necessities of life at a price the people can reach with their limited incomes—and which will give them all the profit legitimately due them—they will do much toward solving the food problem. It is not necessary to preach economy to the workingman who has been making a desperate struggle to exist for nearly two years, for if he can figure on a square meal once in 24 hours he's a lucky man.

What better evidence of the piracy of the speculators in food do you want than the action of the Chicago exchange on Tuesday in setting a maximum price at which wheat could be sold; and this action in the face of a heated discussion of the food conditions by Congress and a demand from the President that immediate legislation be enacted to have the government control the food supply, which action they admit was for the purpose of forestalling legislation.

As we have stated before, it is not necessary to employ gum-shoe men or secret service sleuths to solve the food problem. The sharks and pirates who have for years gouged the American consumer have been bold enough to admit that they have bled the people and that having run the prices of foodstuffs to such a lofty height that they are crying out to Congress for relief, are now ready to cease their piratical operations during the continuance of the war.

Very patriotic, indeed. But, the truth of the matter is, these vultures realize that they have gone the limit, and unless some relief is given the consumer at once they will be called to account.

What ought to be done—and the only thing that will put a permanent end to gambling and speculation in the necessities of life—is for the government to regulate the price of foodstuffs during the war and forever abolish the system

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS.

The annual convention of the North Carolina Good Roads Convention will be held in Asheville on June 27.

The Marion Sprunt Memorial Hospital for Women and Children will be dedicated and formally transferred May 29. The exercises are to take place at 3:30 p. m.

A new enterprise in Wilmington is the P. K. Candy Company, which is located in the winery building on South Front street. It is managed by Mr. F. W. Garrett.

At the regular weekly meeting Monday morning the Wilmington Ministers' Association sent a resolution to Senator Simmons and Congressman Godwin urging them to vote to prohibit making grain into beverages.

Mr. John A. Livingston, city editor of The Morning Star, has been appointed as assistant in marketing in the Agricultural Experiment Station and will enter upon the duties of the office on June 1.

The New Hanover Board of Education on Monday voted an appropriation of \$300 to assist the Food Conservation Commission in employing a whole time demonstrator for the county.

City Tax Collector Blair issues a statement to delinquent taxpayers whose property has been advertised for sale, that he will turn auctioneer for a short while on Wednesday, May 23.

C. E. Scherer was before the Recorder Wednesday charged with carrying a concealed weapon and an assault with a deadly weapon. He paid the costs in the first case and was fined \$50 in the second.

The Boys' Brigade unit left on the A. C. L. Tuesday morning for Goldsboro, where they were mustered into the Second regiment, N. C. N. G., at Camp Royster.

Vacancies in several branches of the civil service have been announced by the civil service commission. Salaries range from \$800 up, and the dates of the examinations are for May and June. Full information may be had by applying at the local postoffice or to the commission in Washington.

Interesting exercises marked the close of the school term in the city schools during the week. The exercises were held at Sunset Park school and Peabody school on Wednesday, at Cornelius Harnett, Isaac Bear Memorial, Union and Hewenway schools on Thursday, and at William Hooper school on Friday.

The adoption of the free sites proposition has had a good effect already, for our city has been visited during the past week by a number of prospective manufacturers who are investigating the advantages offered by our city, and, while no plans have been made by any of them, it is understood that they look favorably on the situation. Those in a position to know say that the free sites proposition has boosted Wilmington as a prospective manufacturing center.

through which these robbers operate.

Let Congress give the necessary legislative relief and as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Hoover says, the food supply will be sufficient, and can be reduced 40 to 50 per cent in price.

UNION BREVITIES.

The Federal Employees Union met in regular monthly session on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Allied Printing Trades Council met on Tuesday. They are now making a successful label campaign and urge that union men and their friends insist that all printed matter bears the Allied Printing Trades Label.

The Carpenters and Joiners are a busy bunch these days. They are now holding special meetings and are perfecting their organization.

Wilmington Trades Council will meet on Tuesday night, May 22. All delegates are specially urged to attend.

Friends of Mr. C. McD. Jones, secretary of Brotherhood of Railway Car Men, will regret to hear that he has been confined at his home for several days with fever. We wish him a rapid recovery.

Co-operation Is the First Principle of Success.

We print today on our sixth page the cards of some of Wilmington's progressive business men who are friendly to organized labor, and who are co-operating with this paper in bringing about a condition in our city by which the union men and friends of labor will be enabled to spend their money at home for goods that have been produced under fair conditions of labor and at the same time assures the business men of the city that money earned by the union men of this city will be spent at home. The cards appearing in today's paper are only a part of those who are to take part in this buy-at-home movement by organized labor. In our next week's paper we will publish the full list, which will be repeated every four weeks in order that union men and the friends of organized labor can co-operate with those who are aiding them in this movement.

Organized Labor endorses this movement through Wilmington Trades Council and the Label Products Committee which assures that this buy-at-home movement will receive the solid support of organized labor.

Local Amusement Managers Fair to Organized Labor.

An agreement has been made between the Howard & Wells Amusement Company and officers of the local branch of the International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees, through the efforts of Wilmington Trades Council and the Label Products Committee, by which the management of the local playhouses and moving picture shows will hereafter recognize the union and employ its members, which will ultimately result in a contract between the union and the show management. To those who have had the impression that the conditions under which the Wilmington amusement houses have been operating were unfair to organized labor we wish to state that the agreement entered into between the management and the committee representing the Wilmington Trades Council is considered by that body as indicating that the Howard & Wells Company desires to deal fair with organized labor and will sign a contract with the I. A. T. S. E. in due time, and should be considered as fair to organized labor.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Congress has decided not to raise the amount of the revenue bill at this time.

An important victory is reported from the Italian front at Isonzo Heights.

All National Guard organizations will be called into Federal service between July 15 and August 5.

A picked division of United States will be sent to France in command of General Pershing at an early date.

Japan will now enter the war. A Japanese naval force has arrived at Marseilles to join the submarine campaign.

Yesterday's dispatches officially state that Bullecourt is at last in the hands of the British, and they are pressing on to Queant, which is doomed.

All the Virginia division steamers of the Old Dominion Steamship Co. are tied up, at Norfolk, on account of a strike of engineers for increased wages.

It is officially stated that the membership of the new Russian cabinet includes six Socialists, and that all difficulties had been thereby adjusted, though German rumor has it that a truce is about to be signed with the Teutons.

The executive committee of the council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates, after discussing the internal situation in Russia, on Monday, decided by a vote of 41 to 19 to favor the participation of representatives of Socialist parties in the provisional government.

Mrs. Lavinia Albertson Passes.

On Thursday morning at 7 o'clock Mrs. Lavinia Albertson, mother of Mrs. C. F. Bell and Mr. Hugh Albertson, of this city, died at the James Walker Memorial Hospital, at the age of 63 years.

Mrs. Albertson was a consistent Christian woman, having been a member of Fifth Avenue Methodist Church for many years, and was highly esteemed by her wide circle of Christian associates. The bereaved relatives have the sympathy of the whole community.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. S. H. McCracken, at Yopp's undertaking parlors, after which the remains were taken to Ellisville, Miss., for interment.

Sons of Confederate Veterans.

George Davis Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans held their annual meeting Monday night at the W. L. I. armory. Dr. W. C. Galloway, commander, and Mr. W. S. Clayton, adjutant, were re-elected, unanimously.

Delegates named to represent the camp at the Washington reunion were as follows: Dr. W. C. Galloway, E. A. Hawes, S. P. Raines, Col. Walker Taylor, A. M. King, James F. Woolvin, R. C. Fergus, and W. S. Clayton. Sponsors: Mrs. James F. Woolvin and Mrs. W. C. Galloway.

A committee was appointed to aid the Veterans to secure funds to attend the reunion. Addresses were made by Colonel Walker Taylor, Mr. D. J. Fergus and Paul D. Satchwell, Esq.

Fleet of Catfish Club Makes Fishing Cruise.

The Catfish Club is now getting real action; for this week one of the most enjoyable cruises was made to Rat Island, up the Northeast river, where the officers and crews of the fleet made war on the finny tribe, making a nice haul of the varieties of perch and trout that abound in the waters of the Northeast.

The Blue-cat, the "scout cruiser" of the fleet, made a run up to the island in the morning and laid a few mines, and was followed about 1 p. m. by the Viking King, and when they did get in action, with rod and reel, there was something doing among the subterranean dwellers.

The expedition was most successful, and will be repeated in the near future.