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NEW BERN, N. C.

**THE PRESIDENT
TO PROBE HIGH
COST OF LIVING**

Several Government Depart-
ments Brought to Bear
Upon Problem.

**IMPORTANT DATA
ALREADY AT HAND**

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 17.—President Wilson has decided to investigate the high cost of living. The energies of several of the Government departments will be brought to bear upon the problem of living costs, and these will be co-ordinated under White House direction. The President is understood to regard this investigation as one of the most important tasks confronting him at the outset of his new tenure at the White House.

Republican efforts to prejudice the public against the Wilson Administration because of high prices of necessities of life have had no influence upon the President in reaching his decision. The absurdity of an effort to charge the government with responsibility for present cost conditions he considered so patent that he thought it idle to bother much with an answer while the campaign was on. His sense of freedom from responsibility in regard to the issue which the Republicans sought to raise, however, has not blinded him to the realization that the cost of living has been going up very rapidly for the past few years, and that every reason exists why the Government should undertake to ascertain if all the elements were justifiable, and, therefore, unavoidable, and whether means of rectification can be found.

Increases 35 per Cent.
Data gathered at the various Government departments already has brought to the attention of the Administration the fact that the cost of living has increased 35 per cent in the past few years. Different segments of the problem thus presented have been investigated independently by the Department of Commerce, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture. Broadly speaking, the causes of the increases have been classified as natural and artificial. For the former it is realized that natural remedies can be found through scientific research and in educational activities on the part of the Government. For the latter legislation may be required.

One of the investigations which has been made was that by the Federal Trade Commission into the fertilizer situation. This has just been completed. The commission has found that the British commerce policy has deprived the Government of a large part of its normal supply of good fertilizers. There has been a shortage in both natural nitrates, those which are mined, and air nitrates, which are manufactured by water power.

A question which is now before the Department of Agriculture for solution is whether the nitrate shortage can be held accountable for the shortage in the wheat crop. The Department does not doubt that this is true to a considerable extent, but under instructions from the President, Secretary Houston is going forward with all possible dispatch to determine the actual extent of this responsibility

and to devise means for remedying the trouble.

Combines Hard to Prove
The Department of Justice never has abandoned its inquiries instigated by the President soon after the outbreak of the European war to determine if any of the sudden rises in food prices which occurred at that time were legally preventable.

The Department was unable to establish in many cases that agreements had been entered into among food dealers to raise the prices in defiance of the law. Its inquiries and others made by other departments were sufficient, however, to establish the conviction among the Administration officials that the middleman was to be regarded as heavily responsible for the shooting up of prices, not only in that brief period of price inflation, but subsequently.

It was this conviction which the President expressed in his speech to farmers last night, when he said: "We ought to raise such big crops that circumstances like the present can never recur, when men can make it appear as if the supply was so short that the middleman could charge for it what he pleased."

Chairman Edward N. Hurley, of the Federal Trade Commission, will be a prominent figure in the forthcoming investigation. Mr. Hurley already has applied himself industriously to questions connected with the high prices of coal and bread. He went to Chicago several weeks ago to deal with a threatened increase in the price of a loaf which the bakers of that city were reported to have agreed to. He has charged further that present food prices are suicidal and that coal operators' wastefulness is responsible for a large measure of the extortion. Mr. Hurley is authority for the statement that fully 200,000,000 tons of bituminous coal is wasted at the mines each year.

Whatever the outcome of the investigation, it seems certain that the Government will not resort to embargo legislation for a remedy. The President is said to consider that embargo not only would beset the Government with wrangling between the different industries, but that it is almost inevitable that it would bring on hard times, for this has been the history of all embargoes attempted by the United States in the past.

The President probably will lay the matter formally before the Cabinet at an early meeting and will ask the heads of the departments capable of being utilized to formulate a joint plan of procedure.

**FAMILY AVOIDS
SERIOUS SICKNESS**

By Being Constantly Supplied With
Theford's Black-Draught.

McDuff, Va.—"I suffered for several years," says Mrs. J. B. Whitaker, of this place, "with sick headache, and stomach trouble."

Ten years ago a friend told me to try Theford's Black-Draught, which I did, and I found it to be the best family medicine for young and old.

I keep Black-Draught on hand all the time now, and when my children feel a little bad, they ask me for a dose, and it does them more good than any medicine they ever tried.

We never have a long spell of sickness in our family, since we commenced using Black-Draught.

**ROOSEVELT SILENCE
HAS SALTY FLAVOR**

"There's D— Little of It," Says,
Quoting Old New Bedford
Whaling Captain.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—"I can only reply to your request by quoting the remark of the old New Bedford whaling captain to his mate," said Theodore Roosevelt last evening to a group of reporters at the Langdon Hotel when asked to comment upon the result of the election.

"As you may recall," continued Mr. Roosevelt, smiling, "the captain's remark was this:

"All I want out of you is silence, and damn little of that."
Mr. Roosevelt arrived in the city in the forenoon and will return to Oyster Bay today after a speech at the Biltmore Hotel at half past ten o'clock under the auspices of the Institute of Arts and Science. He explained laughingly that there would be nothing of a political nature in his talk.

There was an old time air of activity about Mr. Roosevelt's first day in the city after election. Both at his office in the suite of the Metropolitan Magazine and at the hotel he was besieged with callers.

The only persons whose calls could be considered as having any political significance, according to Mr. Roosevelt, were A. P. Moore, a Pittsburg publisher; William Miller Collier, formerly minister to Spain; Nathaniel A. Elsborg, formerly State Senator; Horace S. Wilkinson, of Syracuse, and Mayor William Hale Thompson, of Chicago.

Muggins—"Harduppe has only known that chorus girl three days, and he's all broken up over her already." Buggins—"Yes, it wouldn't take a chorus girl long to break Harduppe."

**ORIENTAL BAZAAR
A GRAND SUCCESS**

Hundreds Visit the Booths And
Enjoy An Evening of Un-
usual Pleasure.

The Oriental Bazaar in the basement of Centenary Methodist church last evening was a complete success from every standpoint.

The affair was in charge of Mrs. Scott and her Bright Jewels and too much can not be said in praise of the management of this unique social event. The ladies in charge of the booths deserve great credit.

Mrs. Wade Meadows, in charge of the Egyptian booth had much flattering comment by the throng of visitors who crowded her place. Her booth was hung with Oriental curtains, and Oriental rugs covered the floor. Beads and trinkets were used as decorations.

The Chinese booth, designed and decorated by Miss Jane Stewart, and Mrs. T. G. Roberts, was a thing not to be lightly passed by. Incense was burned in this booth and four elaborately dressed Chinese girls and boys sold Chinese lily bulbs. Curious were much in evidence here.

The Japanese booth, in charge of Mrs. W. H. Henderson and Mrs. R. H. Smith, was indeed beautiful and artistic. Japanese curios were used much in decoration and it was lighted by Japanese lanterns. Parasols, fans, etc., were used effectively. This booth sold tea and wafers.

The Korean booth, under the direction of Mrs. J. T. Hollister, was straw-thatched and indeed a fine representation of Korean life. Home-made candies were sold in Mrs. Hollister's place—the demand being greater than she could supply.

Mrs. C. L. Spencer and Miss Delphine Spencer had charge of the Indian booth. This booth was tastefully arranged and deserves much praise for its beautiful appearance. This booth dispensed lemonade and cool drinks.

The children in their pretty costumes were lovely beyond description. The scene was verily fairy-like when the Bright Jewel Band with banners of all nations marched in pretty figures around the booths and sang with all the sweetness and charm of happy childhood the "Song of the Nations." There was no heart there that was not touched at the scene. Nothing is more appealing than childhood and the hearts of all present went out to these dear children in their efforts to extend the Kingdom of Christ who pronounced a special blessing upon all little children.

The valiant molems were there in large numbers, the Tamil coolies, the Japanese in their pretty kimonos, the Chinamen with queues, the Koreans in their beautiful coats, in fact they were there, too numerous to name.

Last but not least, the children raised a large sum of money to further the cause of missions in the various fields. The sale of refreshments was especially gratifying. Mrs. Scott wishes to thank every one who in any way added to the pleasure and success of the evening. The price for the best reproduction of "Jack and Janet Around the World" was won by little Miss Lucile Gaskin.

**When You Have
Been Disappointed**

Elsewhere, try here—stocks full and prices lower for quality goods.

If Mr. Man needs a suit or overcoat at \$10 or \$30, of any price between; then this is the place—he is assured of good make, fast color and all wool materials.

If the Boy needs a Suit, Overcoat or Mackinaw, here he is assured of below the market prices.

If Mrs. or Miss needs a new Coat, and price, quality, fit and style are demanded, then she will buy here.

If the "Whole Blooming Family" need Shoes, then our 5,000 pairs of solid leather foot-wear, bought at previous prices, will get the decision.

Sweater Coats for men, women and children, \$1.50 to \$5 and worth more at each price. As to Hosiery, Underwear, Scarfs, Toboggans, Caps, Hats, Neckwear, etc., we are IT.

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buys 100
cents worth**

"Every dollar that you're on speaking terms with should be put wise to the fact that it's got a right to a hundred cents' worth of any kind of joy it cares to select"—says the Old Philosopher.

Let your wise dollar buy a hundred cents' worth of little things that are needed in your home. Tell your wife you're going to the hardware store and ask her if there's anything she needs. Chances are, she'll wish to accompany you. She'll find a lot of things here that will bring back to her the joy of housekeeping.

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