

THE NEW ORLEANS BEE

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FOOD ROBBERS.

There was grim humor in two announcements that came from Chicago last week. Upon the heels of the pious declaration from leading speculators in food supplies, that speculation in food products would be severely frowned upon during the war, came another that food prices had advanced over night to the highest levels ever reached.

The effect of this spectacular raid on the pocketbooks of the people, already too attenuated to supply their needs, was felt in every city in the country. Prices climbed as quickly in New Orleans as in Chicago and local housewives found that their marketing cost them a few cents more on each article bought.

A table compiled in Kansas City shows a rise of from twenty to forty percent there in food prices, in the two weeks between April 1 and April 14. Flour rose from \$1.40 to \$1.70 for a 24-pound sack; sugar from 8 1/4 to 11 cents a pound; ham and bacon from forty to fifty cents a pound; cheese from thirty five cents to forty five cents a pound and so on.

The federal government should take immediate steps to protect the people from these pirates, who would fatten their bank accounts during the nation's hour of need and peril. For two weeks, one burden after another has been fashioned to fit the shoulders of the nation—bond issues and financial obligations of overpowering magnitude; enormous tax increase; demands for compulsory military service and other sacrifices that the war imposes.

Half of the terror of war is the fear of the soldier that those he leaves behind will be left unprotected and unprovided for. The nations now engaged in war were quick to see this situation and quick to act. Some of them have taken over the entire food distribution in their borders; others, through commissions and directors, keep the prices under strict supervision and permit no robbery.

Of course, people who have any space about their houses where they can raise garden stuff or chickens to that extent provide for self-protection. The man who raises his own food in part is to that extent out of the clutches of the food pirates. A record crop of foodstuffs this year would also tend to curb their activities.

David Lloyd George having boldly declared himself a democrat, we can fold him to our buzzsaws. At the same time, it is to be hoped that he will not be seized with a desire to settle in Louisiana. The advent of such a forceful democrat as Davy would disturb the status quo, the status quo ante, the modus vivendi and several other things which have just been laboriously restored.

Henry Heck of St. Cloud, Minn., is dead after undergoing 134 operations. What a star conversationalist Henry would have been at the bridge and embroidery clubs!

With selective military service hovering over us, we should regard the little episode of Tuesday night merely as a practice hike.

The administration has virtually put the censorship of the newspapers in the hands of Mr. George Creel, and what they may or may not print about the war will be left to his judgment and discretion. Mr. Creel has written excellent stuff to go with the illustrations in the magazines and, we believe, made a fine record as police commissioner of Denver.

The call of the Washington social leaders by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson to the simple and inexpensive life must have been a great measure of relief to most of them. There is a general impression down here that Washington is chronically broke and living beyond its means and was glad of the excuse.

Bro. Carranza, from his executive chair in peaceful and prosperous Mexico, dedicates himself to the task of restoring peace to a distracted world. One may not doubt the purity of Bro. Carranza's intentions, but he should not make us laugh so much when our lips are chapped.

Kaiser William is said to be paying a brief visit to his estate in Holland. The Kaiser has mighty few places to go, at this time, and the number is steadily lessening.

In Russia, the streets are full of returned Siberian exiles and the jails are being crowded with grand dukes and grand duchesses. Thus the order of things changes.

No medals for patriotism will be distributed among the Kansas farmers who have been offered \$2.40 for their wheat, and are holding it for \$3.

LOUISIANA OPINION.

Sounds Harsh, But is Fair.

Shreveport Journal: The hardest thing about conscription is its name. It leaves an unpleasant taste, but analyzed it amounts to a little more than a just distribution of burdens, which, under the volunteer system, distinctive classes bear. Under the volunteer plan of raising an army, the flower of our young manhood, the willing patriot, the citizen ever loyal and true, marches to the trenches, while the shirker, the slacker, the coward, remains at home.

Reaching Modern Standard.

Alexandria Town Talk: Mexican civilization is advancing, after all. They had an automobile race in Mexico City one Sunday lately, which came up to the best Yankee precedent. Nine men were killed. The old bull fights, you know, were so barbarous!

Not Amusement Center Alone.

Assumption Pioneer: New Orleans is now dressed in military clothes, and those who believed that the Crescent City was only created for fun, have another guess coming to them.

St. Bernard Has Aspirations.

St. Bernard Voice: St. Bernard holds a commanding position, when it comes to advantages, which captains and founders of industries cannot afford to overlook. Keep your eyes open and watch us grow.

Business as Usual.

Franklin Watchman: The different church societies look like they tried to get ahead of one another in having sale days of different things.

Bean-bag the Last Resource.

Madison Journal: The opium business has been outlawed; whisky is on the verge of destruction; the next thing we know it will be unethical to play draw poker.

Reason for Selective Service.

Louisiana Democrat: "We don't want our boy to join the army after we have spent so much in his careful raising and education. He has never been used to hardships, and we think there are working men enough to go to the front and fight for the country." Too many people think this way, and for that reason the conscript law, now being agitated is more than likely to be passed by Congress.

STORM AT RAILWAY'S POWER PLANT SHOWS NO SIGN OF RECURRENCE

New Orleans between 1:15 and 6:15 yesterday evening was in a much more pleasant frame of mind than during that period the day before when a strike of men employed in the New Orleans Railway and Light Company's Market-street power plant tied up practically every street car line and put a number of lights out of commission.

Things were running smoothly again yesterday evening, with no indication of further trouble. Railway officials have assured the public that the matter has been adjusted and steps have been taken to guard against a repetition of what happened Tuesday.

"The men have all returned to work, apparently realizing the grave error in their hasty action," D. D. Curran, president of the Railway company, told The Bee yesterday evening. "Up to the present no conference has been held with the men, nor is any scheduled."

The strike resulted from dismissal of E. B. McKinney as superintendent of power. McKinney's alleged disloyalty and his lack of confidence in the men under him are among the reasons given by Mr. Curran why the Railway company dispensed with his services.

A statement given to the press by Mr. Curran reads, in part: "I have personally, on a number of occasions, appealed to Mr. McKinney on the ground of his long service and the disloyalty of myself and the entire management of dispensing with the services of an old employee, to give us co-operation and loyal support, which are essential to the maintenance of discipline and good service, and, therefore, imperative to the public interests. With the greatest reluctance I was finally compelled to realize that this company could not render the best service to the public with Mr. McKinney as a part of the organization, and I instructed the general manager to dismiss him from our service."

"In August, 1916, I told Mr. McKinney, in the presence of our general manager, that unless my company obtained henceforth his loyal support and co-operation he would leave me no alternative but to dismiss him. Shortly afterwards I started on a short vacation and had hardly left the city when he sent me the following letter of resignation to my office:

"Dear Sir:—Please accept this as my resignation, to take effect at your earliest convenience. "Respectfully, (Signed) E. B. McKinney, Superintendent of Power. "C. C. Mr. M. S. Sloan."

"Being advised of the receipt of this communication, I telegraphically instructed that nothing should be done by the management until my return, and on the second day of my being back at the office Mr. McKinney requested me to allow him to withdraw his resignation, assuring me that henceforth the company would have his faithful co-operation and support, and reluctantly and regretfully admitted that heretofore such support and co-operation had not been received by us at his hands. I told him that I would hold his resignation in abeyance in view of the assurances, but that I would not return it, and, if improvement was not manifested, it would be accepted."

"Six months have elapsed since that interview, and I have patiently borne Mr. McKinney and his methods, having further conferences in an effort, by reason of his long connection with the company, to bring him to a proper sense and appreciation of his duty to the company. His dismissal today is the result of an accumulation of insubordinate and disloyal acts which left me no other alternative but to displace him."

"Mr. McKinney had absolute control of all of the power-houses and substations of this company. The action of his men is evidence of the extent to which his disloyalty went, because in the talk which Mr. Sloan had with the skilled employes of the central power plant this afternoon, just before the walk-out, it developed that by malicious misrepresentation of the management, with the evident object of selfishly fattening himself in his own position, he had placed the men in antagonism to the company and had created the conviction that he was their champion, and that his dismissal would be the beginning of unfair treatment of the power-house and substitution employes of the company. The men admitted to me, when they saw his letter of resignation, dated Sept. 22, 1916, that they had been misquoted and misrepresented, he having stated to the power-house employes that the first

intimation that he was likely to be dismissed from the service was the order on the bulletin board that Mr. J. J. Chisholm had been appointed his successor as the superintendent of power. This bulletin was not posted until after Mr. McKinney had been personally advised of his dismissal from the service.

"Mr. J. J. Chisholm was formerly superintendent of power of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company in Birmingham. He has come here to fill this important position with this company, and to make this his home.

"Some time ago I felt that, by reason of Mr. McKinney's years, he should have an assistant superintendent of power, and I asked him whether he could recommend a man in his organization competent to fill that position, and he declined then to make such recommendation. As the handling of the large units in our power plant requires special training and large experience the company did not feel, in view of Mr. McKinney's own lack of confidence in his subordinates that, in justice to the public or the company, it could promote any employee, but must secure the most competent man available, and, after looking over the field, it feels that it has in Mr. Chisholm such a new superintendent of power."

"I only wish to add that under no circumstances could this company consider having Mr. McKinney associated hereafter in any capacity whatsoever. However regrettable as it is that the public was inconvenienced for several hours this afternoon, we feel that we have done that which ultimately is bound to be in the best interest of the community."

Mr. McKinney, however, denies the charges and said Tuesday night that Mr. Curran would be called upon to prove his assertions. His statement was printed in The Bee yesterday morning.

"This business has just started," Mr. McKinney declared. "The end has not come yet."

VITAL STATISTICS

Births Mrs. Vincenz Catalanotte, a girl, Harrison avenue and Canal boulevard. Mrs. Eugene Wail, a girl, 26603 Magnolia street.

Marriages Charles Lyle, Jr., and Miss Augusta Flanhart. Edgar Russell and Miss Rosalie Spearis.

Deaths Gasper Cavatoia, 50 years. Joseph Hewlett, 6 years, 4664 N. Miro street.

Ernest Bagar, 16, MISSING Police last night were asked to look for 16-year-old Ernest Bagar, 3703 Carrollton avenue, who left home yesterday morning and up to nearly midnight had not been seen or heard of.

Mrs. Isabella Homes, 61 years, 1410 Valmont street. Mrs. (Widow) Elizabeth Johnstain, 89 years, 708 Royal street.

Mrs. (Widow) Elizabeth Johnstain, 89 years, 708 Royal street. Michel Kohlman, 75 years, 4532 Magazine street.

John Miller, 25 years, West End. Mrs. Julia Wiesbrecht, 55 years, 621 S. Cayoso street.

Lillia Waguespack, 38 years, Hotel Dieu. Alfred Grammar, 39 years, 1217 St. Ferdinand street.

Mrs. Sylvester Scherr, a boy Touru Infirmary. Mrs. Vic Cerise, a girl, 3948 Laurel street.

Mrs. John Donnell, a girl, 636 Camp street.

Charles Lyle, Jr., and Miss Augusta Flanhart.

Edgar Russell and Miss Rosalie Spearis.

Walter Daunis and Miss Cornelia Smith.

Gaspar Cavatoia, 50 years.

Joseph Hewlett, 6 years, 4664 N. Miro street.

Mrs. Eugene Wail, a girl, 26603 Magnolia street.

Mrs. Vincenz Catalanotte, a girl, Harrison avenue and Canal boulevard.

ALL NEW ORLEANS GARDEN DISTRICT

HARRY WILSON IN THE CITY YESTERDAY TO BOOST CAMPAIGN

WORK HERE WELL ADVANCED

Home Garden Committee Has Work Well Planned.—8,000 Gardens in Ten Days Their Aim.

The gospel of the Home Garden was much advanced in New Orleans yesterday, when Harry Wilson, commissioner of agriculture, came to town from Baton Rouge. He found that New Orleans is wide awake to the food preparedness campaign and that the home garden committee of the Association of Commerce, of which Meyer Eiseman is chairman, has set its mark at 8,000 back yard gardens before the end of April.

Mr. Wilson addressed four meetings in New Orleans yesterday afternoon in four hours. He appeared before the Home Garden Committee at the Association of Commerce at 12 o'clock noon. He addressed the Normal School girls at 2 p. m.; spoke to the women of the National League for Service, on invitation of Mrs. Philip Werlein, at the Greenwood Hotel at 3 p. m., and spoke to the principals of the New Orleans Public Schools at the rooms of the school board in City Hall Annex at 4 p. m.

The keynote of any New Orleans talks, said Mr. Wilson, "was a personal question to each one present: 'What will you do; what part can we count on your taking in this fight for food?'"

Mr. Wilson found the home garden campaign in this city in full swing. The three expert advisers, D. K. Bankston, W. D. Clayton, and J. E. Cotton, are making an average of 15 calls a day each, which they declare is the human limit, and they are fraying their voices in the dispensing of advice.

They were detailed for this work by the State agricultural department. It is suggested that neighborhoods hold meetings and listen to addresses from one of the experts. He will give practical demonstration of how to prepare the soil, plant and tend the plants after they have sprouted.

The playgrounds commission of New Orleans, through I. G. Benedetto, Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Richardson, tented the use of at least five of the eleven playgrounds for home gardening demonstration.

Through E. O. Wild the farm implement houses of this city tented the use of plows and all farm implements required for the cultivation of garden crops.

Chris Reuther, through his son, notified the committee that his concern would furnish free of charge all seeds required.

Request will be made of Commissioner of Public Property E. E. Lafaye to donate the use of teams and drivers for plowing the grounds.

Mr. Wilson yesterday announced that he had appointed a Gardening Committee as a sub-committee of the State organization. It is composed of Justin F. Denechoud, chairman; R. G. Miller, A. W. Nowlin, Meyer Eiseman and Herman Seifert.

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT. Mrs. Thomas L. Whaley, Jr., vs. Thomas L. Whaley, divorce; Alma Constance vs. Stanley Alexander, her husband, divorce; Security Building and Loan Association vs. Mrs. Ruth Josephine Holstrom, wife of Philip J. Crumhorn, executive process, \$3,300; John B. Warfield vs. Interstate Land Company of Ala., note, \$840.82; Claude M. Little vs. J. A. Price, provisional seizure, \$160.16; Mrs. Annie G. Galoin vs. Al Franz, damages, \$5,000; Mrs. Alice Dowsett, authorization to borrow; Anna M. Willis, emancipation; Frank R. Maloney vs. Wadding-Hamilton Motor Co., Inc., damages, personal injuries, \$1,900.

DRANK GASOLINE, BUT LIVES Lucile Green, three years old, 535 St. Philip street, through mistake yesterday evening drank gasoline. She was attended to by Charity Hospital ambulance doctors, who left her at home and out of danger.

KNOCKED DOWN BY AUTO Becoming confused as an auto approached while she was crossing the street at Hilary and St. Charles avenue last night, Mrs. Battie Moore, 3137 Hilary street, walked in the car's path and was knocked down. She was bruised about the body and taken home in the machine, which was driven by J. P. O'Brian, 338 Hilary street.

U. S. DAILY WEATHER REPORT

Thursday, April 19, 1917. Forecast till 7 p. m. Thursday: For New Orleans and vicinity: Cloudy, light southerly winds.

LOCAL METEOROLOGICAL RECORD

Temperature Record Yesterday's temperature record at New Orleans, as shown by the thermograph of the U. S. Weather Bureau, on the roof of the Postoffice building, was as follows:

Time Temperature 7 a. m. 68 9 a. m. 73 11 a. m. 78 1 p. m. 80 3 p. m. 82 5 p. m. 80

Weather Record

The following is the weather data for April 18, 1917, at New Orleans: 7 a. m. to 2 p. m. 7 p. m. Temperature 92 73 Rel. Humidity 94 64 96 Wind SE 7 SE 8 Weather Cloudy Clear

RIVER FORECAST

The Mississippi River below Vicksburg, and the Atchafalaya will rise; on account of recent rains, crest stages are indicated as follows: Natchez, 49.2 to 49.7 feet, April 20th to 25th; Baton Rouge, 36.8 to 37.3 feet; Donaldsonville, 29.7 to 29.3; New Orleans 18.7 to 19.2 feet; April 25th to 30th; stage of 41.5 to 42.0 feet at Simmesport and 39.5 to 40.0 feet at Melville by April 25th; the Red River, below Shreveport, and the Ouachita will change very little during the next 48 hours.

USEFUL DIRECTIONS FOR THE HOME GUARD

How to tell a German spy, according to the newspapers: If he wears a German flag on his hat. If he flies the German flag over his house. If he writes to the Staats Zeitung cursing the government at Washington. If he wears an iron cross and carries a camera. If he runs a delicatessen store with the kaiser's picture in the window. If he refuses to stand and remove his helmet at sound of the "Star Spangled Banner." If he receives letters bearing the imperial stamp of Berlin. If he has a wireless station in his back yard draped in German colors. If he is found, dead or alive, in the vicinity of a recent explosion playing pinoball— Nab him—he is up to something.

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